

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:30	Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)	20:15	Cairo (MS)
13:25	Moscow (SU)	01:25	Amsterdam (KL)
18:05	Larnaca (CY)		
20:15	Cairo (MS)		
20:15	Beirut (MS)		
22:20	Istanbul (TK)		
06:25	Amsterdam (KL)		

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Flights

(Terminal 1)

05:00	Aqaba (RJ)
05:45	Beirut (RJ)
06:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00	Rome (RJ)
11:00	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
11:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:40	Vicenza (RJ)
11:45	Istanbul (RJ)
12:00	Athens (RJ)
19:45	Aqaba (RJ)
20:05	Riyadh (RJ)
20:15	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Jeddah (RJ)
21:00	Damascus (RJ)
21:25	Beirut (RJ)
21:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:45	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
22:00	Bangkok (RJ)
22:45	Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:20	Rome (AZ)
12:30	Doha, Muscat (GF)
15:05	Moscow (SU)

HIJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

Dep. Amman	5:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus	5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	600/ 400
Banana	680
Beans (Muskammar)	620
Cabbage	120/ 80
Carrot	300/200
Cauliflower	120/ 80
Cucumbers (large)	120/ 80
Cucumbers (small)	260/ 200
Eggplant	280/ 180
Garlic	900/700
Grapes	500/ 300
Grapes (Hithwand)	500/ 300
Guaava	550/ 500
Lemon	450/300
Marrow (large)	230/ 180
Marrow (small)	120/ 80
Mushrooms	330/ 220
Onion (dry)	180/ 100
Onion (green)	300/ 200
Pepper (hot)	530/ 200
Pepper (sweet)	300/ 200
Pepper (sown)	300/ 200
Potatoes	280/ 200
Pumpkin	280/ 200
Spinach	280/ 200
Tomato	280/ 200
String beans	130/ 70

Anari to sign debt write-off agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Saturday gave the go-ahead to the signing of an agreement with the U.S. to write off \$220 million of Jordan's total debts due to Washington estimated at \$702 million.

The Cabinet authorised Information Minister Jawad Anani, who is currently in the U.S. capital, to sign the agreement.

It was in Anani who announced last month that the U.S. would write off the \$220 million before the end of September. He spoke on Aug. 5, the day after the U.S. House of Representatives ended a compromise bill that included provisions for debt relief for Jordan, piling that the rest of the Kingdom's debts to Washington would be deleted in 1995 and 1996.

Finance Minister Sami Gammah said the U.S. administration has pledged to write off all Jordan's debts to the United States.

He said also that the Cabinet has set up a delegation to travel to Paris and negotiate the rescheduling of the Kingdom's debts to France.

According to the statement, Michael Marib, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) will lead the team to the Paris talks.

Last month U.S. President Bill Clinton urged the Paris Club which includes France, to act as rapidly as possible to relieve Jordan's financial burden through bilateral debt forgiveness.

The Council of Ministers also Saturday decided to endorse an agreement on cooperation in administrative



fields with Tunisia. The agreement provides for the exchange of expertise and training of personnel.

The Cabinet authorised Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan to travel to Japan and attend the opening of the Osaka International Airport in November. Dr. Adwan will attend the ceremony along with 49 ministers of tourism from around the world.

The ministers also consented to Jordan joining an agreement on nuclear safety with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and endorsed a trade protocol with Egypt which provides for increasing national goods to be exchanged between the two countries.

The Cabinet gave its consent also to Jordan's participation in the Babylon Cultural and Touristic Festival to be held in Iraq between Oct. 22 and 26. Two local folkloric troupes will participate in the coming festival.

British businesses ready to expand area ventures

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The British government as well as business community are very interested in expanding trade relations with Jordan and stand ready for joint ventures and transfer of technology, a senior British official said Saturday.

Derek Hornby, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, was addressing a meeting with Jordanian businessmen.

"We are aware that British investment in Jordan is not of the expected level and that is why we are here," said Mr. Hornby, who is accompanied by a group of businessmen representing mostly companies dealing with water technology, pollution control and engineering consultancy services.

Addressing the meeting, organised by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association, Mr. Hornby said British businessmen were preoccupied with competition from Japan in the domestic British market as well as elsewhere in the mid- and late 80s and hence were not able to focus on Jordan and other countries in the region.

In the early 90s, the preoccupation shifted to the requirements of the European Common Market, which came into being in 1992-93. Since then, Mr. Hornby said, the focus was shifting back to the regional markets, particularly the Middle East now that peace and stability seem to be on their way to be restored to the region.

British businesses are not simply seeking to increase their exports to Jordan, he said.

"Exports give an impression of one losing and another gaining, and this is

not what we have in mind," he said, adding that possibilities exist for direct British investment in Jordan, for joint ventures and for "technology sharing."

Mr. Hornby noted that the delegation accompanying him was mostly made up of executives who represent major British companies specialised in water pumping, treatment and distribution, waste-water and sewerage treatment, civil and electrical contractors and engineering consultants.

He said he believed that in the post-peace era, water is one of the key sectors that would have major demands, given the scarcity of water in the region. This was the reason that prompted him to pick a delegation that had more to do with water and related areas, he said.

Many of the companies represented in the delegation have and are doing business in Jordan. These include Balfour Beatty, Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Partners, Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners — which is currently supervising the building of the Karameh Dam — Wempey Engineering and Construction, Babcock Water Engineering and Unilever.

In addition to the possibilities that peace opens up in the Middle East, business with Iraq is also very much a consideration for British businessmen, said Mr. Hornby.

"Iraq is not going to remain under international sanctions forever," Mr. Hornby noted. He called for a pooling of "British-Jordanian skills" to be used in doing business with the Iraqi market.

Similarly, Jordanian businesses also offer an access to the Palestinian market in the occupied West



A visiting British businessmen's delegation Saturday discusses bilateral commerce with Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi and officials from the ministry (Petra photo)

Bank and Gaza Strip, he noted.

"There are tremendous opportunities" in the region, and Jordanian and British businessmen could benefit from each others' technical and business expertise, he summarised.

Similarities in the Jordanian and British economic performances include annual growth, inflation and stability of the currency, he said. "We can do business without having to worry about currency devaluation" — a factor that dissuades many international deals, he said.

In general, he added, more exchanges and face-to-face contacts could help both sides to develop closer links and joint approaches to the chances that the region offers.

Earlier, Hamdi Tabbaa, a former minister of industry and trade and current chairman of the Jordan Businessmen's Association, welcomed the British delegation.

"Although Jordan and the United Kingdom enjoy very close relations and

understanding on political issues, economic relations today do not resemble such relations," Mr. Tabbaa said.

Mr. Tabbaa suggested the formation of a Jordanian-British business council "through which our economic relations could be strengthened with the aim of realising our mutual interests."

There was no immediate British response to that proposal.

During a question and answer session that followed Mr. Hornby's address, Jordanian businessman Abdul Fatah Touqan complained that not many British companies were offering competitive bids, were interested in setting up joint ventures, preferring instead for "associations," were willing to post bid and performance bonds for government contracts, and quite often, many would turn down Jordanian proposals for alliances to undertake work in other countries in the region.

One of the businessmen replied that British offers for consultancy services were highly competitive when compared with their European counterparts while they were indeed high when compared with Jordanian offers.

The businessmen also said that British companies preferred "associations" rather than "joint ventures" since the latter exposes them to liabilities in the host country "if something goes wrong with the project."

Mr. Hornby promised to study the issues raised by Mr. Touqan.

British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe, who also attended the meeting, addressed the question of British firms not interested in doing joint business in the engineering sector in the Gaza Strip as cited by Mr. Touqan.

The main reason for such reluctance, Mr. Hinchcliffe said, was scepticism over the approach of the authorities in the occupied territories. "Who is calling the shots there?" he asked.

The ambassador, however, said that things would improve as the political process gets clearer.

At the same time, Mr. Hinchcliffe voiced confidence that British-Jordanian trade and economic relations could be strengthened since both sides were keen on developing them.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Hornby and the delegation accompanying him held talks with Mohammad Smadi, under-secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

It said discussions during the meeting covered economic dimensions of the Middle East peace process and the business environment in Jordan. It quoted Dr. Smadi as calling for a better balance of trade between Jordan and Britain.

Dr. Smadi explained to the delegation the various incentives and facilities offered by the Jordanian government to foreign investors.



Jordanian fresh produce on display at a German agricultural fair (Petra photo)

Fresh produce marketers head for east Europe

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation led by Salem Lawzi, head of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Monday will head for Moscow on the start of visits to Russia, Poland and Latvia to discuss trade issues.

Dr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times Saturday that there are good prospects for Jordan to market its agricultural products to these countries.

"In our 12-day trip to the three countries, we plan to meet with officials in charge of imports as well as businessmen, and we intend to explore the local markets and their needs of agricultural products," said Dr. Lawzi.

Currently Jordan is sending shipments of agricultural products by air to western European countries and is exporting crops by land to countries of eastern Europe, said Dr. Lawzi who added that Jordan has not yet sold such products to the three countries on

his itinerary. It is hoped that the visit will result in year-round sales of produce, not only winter crops which are produced in the Jordan Valley earlier than other regions, he said.

"We are seeking to open new markets for Jordan's exports in Europe despite strong competition from Spain and Portugal which sell agricultural products to countries of the European Union (EU), said Dr. Lawzi.

Jordan which is also seeking to expand its markets rather than relying heavily on markets of the Arab states, hopes to be able to penetrate fresh produce markets in Ukraine and other eastern European nations at a later stage, he added.

Several major Jordanian fruit and vegetable exporters along with the director of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) are accompanying Dr. Lawzi on the trip.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Border crossing hours, bridge closing announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — According to regulations issued by Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad the southern border crossing point north of Aqaba will be opened from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. except for Fridays and Saturdays. Mr. Hamad said that visas are issued for third country nationals at the border crossing post. No member of the diplomatic missions accredited to either Jordan or Israel will be allowed to use the crossing in either direction except for those with special permits from the Foreign Ministry, and no vehicles from either side can travel in transit through the crossing point, said the statement. It said, however, that visitors who enter Jordan through any other outlet including Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA). The King Hussein Bridge will be opened Monday until 10:00 a.m., according to an announcement Saturday by the Public Security Department (PSD). It said the bridge will remain closed Tuesday, Sept. 27 and re-open for regular travel the following day.

Egyptian tourism minister to arrive for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian Minister of Tourism Mamdouh Bittaji is due in Amman Monday on a three-day official visit. A Ministry of Tourism spokesman Saturday said here that Dr. Bittaji will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart Mohammad Adwan and representatives of the tourism sector, the Aqaba Region Authority and the Jordan Ports Corporation. The talks, according to the spokesman, cover cooperation in tourism activities and Egyptian-Jordanian tourism integration in light of the current political developments in the Middle East. Following his visit here, Dr. Bittaji plans to visit Israel on Wednesday, according to the spokesman.

QAIA arrivals area to get face-lift

AMMAN (Petra) — The arrivals area at Building Number Two of the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) will be closed as of Saturday, October 1 for a period of 50 days to allow for major renovations. All arrivals on Royal Jordanian and other airlines will be received at Building Number One during that period.

Lecture on property rights

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman World Trade Centre, in cooperation with the World Trade Centre of Basel, Switzerland, will host a lecture on intellectual property (patents and copyrights) at the Philadelphia Hotel Wednesday evening. The lecture will be conducted by Dr. J. Kurt Jenny.

Scientists can bridge technology gap in coming era of peace — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab

scientists and researchers can bridge the technology gap between their own countries and Israel in the coming peace era and thus benefit from modern technology in increasing and improving production, mainly in industry, said Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzaq Ensour in opening an engineering seminar here Saturday.

Scientific progress in the Arab World will not be achieved by the large numbers of university graduates or the accumulation of modern equipment alone, but rather through the proper utilisation of modern technology at specialised Arab scientific institutions, said the minister who deputised at the opening session for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The three-day seminar was organised by the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) in cooperation with the Arab



Minister of Housing and Public Works Abdul Razzaq Ensour (centre) Saturday opens a three-day engineering conference (Petra photo)

Engineers Federation (AEF).

AEF Chairman Abdul Rahim Shukri outlined the federation's objectives in helping to pool Arab expertise over the past 30 years.

The seminar will review 34 working papers submitted by engineers from Jordan and other Arab states tackling sci-

entific research and problems in the application of scientific research and the transfer of modern technology. One such paper deals with ways of safe disposal of waste and protection of the environment.

The seminar participants will tour the Royal Scientific

Society (RSS) and other like institutions.

According to Rawhi Sharif, head of a preparatory committee, the seminar was part of Arab engineers arrangements for the 20th Arab Engineers Conference to be held in Khartoum in March 1995.

Syria's Aban Zerikly to bring the 'compelling' Bach to the RCC

By Sally Bland Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Syrian violinist Aban Zerikly has selected pieces from Bach for his concert at the Royal Cultural Centre here in Amman Sunday evening. He insists that Bach is often misunderstood and thought to be stiff and old-fashioned, but this is not the case.

"In fact," says Mr. Zerikly, "the works of Bach for solo violin are very dear to all violinists. It is interesting and even amusing to try and interpret them for an audience. It is not quite right to say that Bach is a difficult, very strict and serious composer. On the contrary, he is sometimes very compelling and easy to understand. He even wrote comic cantatas, like the one called 'The Coffee Cantata,' a light opera about a young girl who likes to drink coffee, which was a new habit at the time. The cost of all her coffee-drinking bothered her father so much that he wanted to marry her off in a hurry."

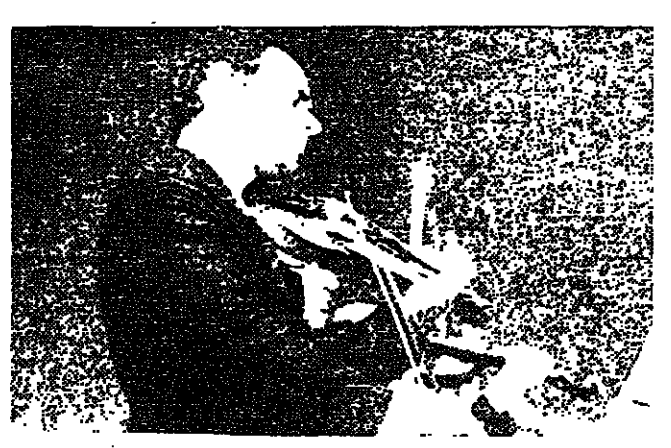
Mr. Zerikly's ideas about Bach are part of his philosophy that one can find dynamic elements in classical as well as in modern music. He points out the limitations of having very fixed ideas about

things: "These fixed ideas prevent us from enjoying things."

Today Bach may be considered part of elite culture and mainly remembered for writing church music. Yet, as Mr. Zerikly points out: "It is known that Bach used many popular themes in his religious cantatas. The important thing is to interpret his music well. Then I think his works will be accessible and pleasing to the public. Especially in the parities which I will play on Sunday, you can find a series of short pieces that are based on original folkdances. They vary greatly in character and tempo. You can find a very peaceful one and then a joyful one. That gives the work more energy and life."

Bach said that he wrote his music for the sake of God, but Mr. Zerikly notes: "That doesn't mean that his works are always serious or difficult. It depends on what we understand by 'for the sake of God.' Every great composer or artist is very simple at the bottom of his heart, so he understands life in a way that is coherent with life itself. Mozart and Beethoven were like this."

This is Mr. Zerikly's first visit to Amman, where he



Aban Zerikly

arrived with his wife, Lamia, on Thursday. In addition to playing violin, he teaches classical music and his first stop in Amman was at the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

"I came here," he says, "to open doors, to meet other people, to obtain new experiences. After all, Amman is close to Damascus. In the context of my interest in teaching music, I think that the problems we face in Damascus are much the same as in all the Arab countries. So it is very helpful for me to exchange opinions and experience with people here. In fact, I had an extensive, very

useful visit to the NMC and a very interesting conversation with the director."

Sunday evening will be Mr. Zerikly's first solo concert outside of Syria, but last week he was part of the orchestra that played with Fairuz in Beirut. The concert itself and the period of practice leading up to it left a deep impression on Mr. Zerikly. He says, "It was my first time to play in this genre of music, but I think I was lucky to have the opportunity to work closely with Fairuz. I was very touched by her dedication to her art, as well as by her modesty and simplicity. I learned a great deal from that experience."

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAY

★ Play in Arabic entitled "The Body Test/the Existence" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

★ Film entitled "The Right Stuff" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (193 minutes).

★ Film in Arabic entitled "The Cine" at Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 7:00 p.m.

CONCERT

★ 18th century musical concert by violinist Aban Zerikly at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings entitled "Donation" by Laila Bustani at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of works by Farouq Zadeh entitled "Faces, Places, and Ideas" at Goethe-Institut (Tel. 641993).

★ Painting exhibition entitled "The Other Sides of Mas-

tery" by Ibrahim Shalabi at the Galleria Jordan, Mecca Street (Tel. 816755).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Sahib Ahmad at the Phoenix Art Gallery (Tel. 695291).

★ Jordan River Designs, a Save the Children project, exhibition of handicraft goods at the Forte Grand Amman Hotel, Mezzanine Floor (10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.).

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boullata entitled "Duets, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Funun of the Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Exhibition by artist Nadim Mubsin at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of stained glass and icons by Olla Beseis at The Gallery at the Hotel Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. except on Friday) (Tel. 641361).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Nasir Thumir at Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Saqra St. (Tel. 644451).

★ "The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.

Plague's deadly trail seems to slow in West Indian city

SURAT, India (R) — The plague loosened its killer grip on the western city of Surat, health officials said Saturday, but the disease stalked other regions in India where terrified people had sought refuge.

The official death toll from the highly contagious pneumonic plague inched up to 36 from 34 earlier in the day. Doctors and residents in Surat, a diamond and textiles centre, estimated more than 100 people had died over the past few days.

"The number of deaths is decreasing," senior Health Ministry official A.K. Mukherjee told a news conference.

Municipal Commissioner Balwant Singh told Reuters that 65 patients had recovered and been discharged from the state-run civil hospital where victims were quarantined.

The number of people being treated for the airborne disease, which is spread between humans from contaminated breath or sputum and attacks the lungs, was steady at about 290.

"The situation has not improved in terms of admissions but improved in terms of deaths," Mr. Singh said. Daksha Jaswant of the hospital staff said: "Today the situation is better. The deaths are much less."

"Patients are coming in at the early stages of the disease so the mortality rate is lower," a resident doctor said.

Outside the hospital virtually all shops remained closed. Most people outside wore handkerchiefs, scarves, surgical masks or towels around their faces to shield against bacteria.

A senior government official in the capital New Delhi said it had been confirmed that the plague was transmitted to Gujarat state north of Bombay by a migrant worker who contracted the disease in neighbouring Maharashtra state.

An outbreak of the less infectious bubonic plague had struck some 81 people east of Bombay but officials said it had been brought under control with chemical spraying and antibiotics.

But the fact the disease had moved hundreds of kilometres raised worries victims would appear elsewhere.

Haji Mahmood Pardawala, state vice-president of the Bahujan Samaj Party, said he had warned Gujarat's chief minister that floods had killed large numbers of animals

which were lying dead in puddles of water, raising the risk of an epidemic.

"At least 300 people have died," Mr. Pardawala said. "People living in shanties have cremated the bodies of their relatives without any death certificates. They never bothered to go to the doctor because they couldn't afford to."

Health Secretary Madhusudan Dayal told a news conference that Surat's population had outstripped its sanitation capabilities. "I have seen so many stagnant pools filled with water which are the birthplace of germs," he said.

Mr. Dayal said plague victims' corpses had to be burned, not buried. India's Hindus cremate their dead but Muslims and Christians generally bury them.

Heavily guarded vans carrying health workers passed out hundreds of thousands of antibiotic tablets in Surat.

One health worker said he was beaten up by a mob wielding hockey sticks when he ran out of supplies Friday. "I'm more scared of the mob fury than the plague," he said.

"Demand for Tetracycline is so much that everyone wants to consume it like peanuts," Mr. Singh said. "This has created anguish because of the unprecedented magnitude of the outbreak."

People continued to flee Surat but the exodus, in which some 300,000 had escaped, appeared to be tapering off.

Farokh Suleman, a 17-year-old street seller outside a packed bus terminal, said fewer people were leaving. "Yesterday people were clambering on top of the buses, virtually killing themselves," he said.

Newspapers said Bombay, Delhi and other major cities had virtually run out of the antibiotic Tetracycline.



The body of a plague victim is brought to the New Civil Hospital in Surat (AFP photo)

Sinn Fein leader leaves for U.S.

DUBLIN (R) — Gerry Adams, head of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, left Dublin Saturday for a two-week tour of the United States during which he is sure to capitalise on the group's ceasefire and rile the British government.

But Protestant politicians and peace workers said they wanted to ensure he did not reap a propaganda harvest.

Mr. Adams, building on new-found respectability following an IRA ceasefire now three weeks old, is trying to build up his international image and garner support for Sinn Fein's peace strategy for Northern Ireland.

Waved off by cheering well-wishers, Mr. Adams told

a brief news conference at Dublin's airport that he thought Britain was "inching" its way towards talks with his group. He hopes the United States will bring pressure to bear on London.

"I believe the British government understand totally the IRA's intentions," Mr. Adams said. "I think what we have here is subterfuge by (Prime Minister) John Major. I think he's engaged in tactical manoeuvring."

The British government has been cautious about accepting that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) really has given up for good its guerrilla war to drive Britain from Northern Ireland. Until it does, Sinn Fein can not

take part in talks on the future of the province.

Mr. Adams praised the role played by the U.S. administration in the peace process and said President Bill Clinton had helped create the conditions for "recent development".

Soon after his arrival in Boston Mr. Adams will meet top Irish-American Senator Edward Kennedy.

Sinn Fein said Mr. Adams will also meet business and political leaders and address meetings of Irish-Americans. He will visit Hartford, Connecticut; Detroit, Michigan; Cleveland, Ohio; New York; Philadelphia; Washington; San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Coup rumours sweep Baku following escape from security ministry jail

BAKU (AFP) — Rumours of an imminent coup have swept the Azerbaijan capital Baku following Thursday night's escape from the National Security Ministry's jail of four top political opponents to Azerbaijan President Gaidar Aliyev.

In an interview with state television late Friday, Mr. Aliyev confirmed the escape of former Defence Minister Rahim Gaziye, his former deputy Baba Nazirli, the former commander of the Lachin region Arif Pashayev and the leader of the self-proclaimed Talysh-Mugan Republic in the south of the country Alikram Gumbatov, from the high security jail.

Mr. Aliyev sacked National Security Minister Nariman Imranov in reaction to the incident.

The escape comes at a time of increased political tension in the republic, as Mr. Aliyev faces not only difficulties from the country's opposition parties and Russia, but also from inside his own government.

All the escapees have connections with Azerbaijan's nominal prime minister, Suret Huseinov, the army colonel from the northeastern town of Ganja whose military coup in 1993 enabled Mr. Aliyev to come to power.

According to diplomatic sources in Baku, Mr. Aliyev's political sidelining of Mr. Huseinov, originally given control of Azerbaijan's security ministries but now left, in

spite of his title, virtually powerless, has embittered this former director of a wool processing factory.

One diplomat however saw Mr. Huseinov's full involvement in last Tuesday's signing ceremony of the multi-billion U.S. dollar oil contract as a sign of better relations with Mr. Aliyev.

"I've been in this prison and I know there is no means of escape unless the highest authorities in the ministry allowed it," said Niaz Ibrahimli, the general secretary of the moderate opposition Musavat Party.

The first three escapees were imprisoned following the fall of Lachin and Shusha to Armenian forces in May 1992 while Mr. Gumbatov, previously the commander of armed forces in Azerbaijan's Lenkoran district neighbouring Iran, was jailed for attempting to establish an ethnic Talysh republic in 1993.

A diplomatic source claimed the sacking of Mr. Imranov would be used by Mr. Aliyev to purge the National Security Ministry, formerly the KGB, to bring the republic's security apparatus under his personal control along with the army and the police.

Opposition parties are under increasing pressure from the Azerbaijan authorities, who broke up a demonstration earlier this month, with considerable force, according to Musavat's Ibrahimli.

"It's hard of course — we get no time on radio or television and even some of the debates in the Milli Mejlis parliament are censored," he claimed.

The Musavat Party are themselves against political demonstrations held by other opposition parties such as the People's Front, who were expected to demonstrate in Azadlig Square Saturday. "It's wrong to destabilise the situation," said Mr. Ibrahimli.

Support for the opposition, as Mr. Ibrahimli himself admits, is weak. According to one diplomat: "Before, the Popular Front could get half a million people on the street but their late demonstration on Sept. 10 was only 2,000 strong."

However, there is much popular social and economic discontent. The day after the oil contract was signed with the Western consortium, oil and gas workers threatened to go on strike over poor pay and conditions.

While observers believe the four-month-old ceasefire in the disputed territory of Nagorno Karabakh (over which Azerbaijan has fought a six-year-war with neighbouring Armenia) and the clinching of the oil deal strengthens Mr. Aliyev's hand politically, opposition to Mr. Aliyev inside and outside the regime could yet bring about the coup so long talked about in Baku.



Residents carrying bare necessities and covering their faces with handkerchiefs flee the plague-hit western city of Surat. Unofficial reports said up to 300,000 people have so far fled Surat, as several Indian cities went on alert against a possible plague epidemic (AFP photo)

Bavarians vote in state elections

MUNICH, Germany (R) — Bavarians vote in state elections Sunday in the last test of public opinion before national polls on Oct. 16, when Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition is standing for a fourth term.

Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) will be watching Bavaria closely to see whether their troubled liberal coalition partners continue a year-old series of six state and European election losses.

If the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) fail to return to parliament in Bavaria, the country's second most populous state, it could cast a shadow over Mr. Kohl's chances to stay in power after the October general election.

A recent opinion poll for the news magazine Focus showed the FDP could expect a slender three per cent in Bavaria after 5.2 per cent in the last state poll four years ago.

German law requires parties to win at least five per cent of the vote to enter any legislature, a hurdle the FDP has failed to reach in five state polls since September 1993 and in European elections in June.

Myers survives shake up at White House

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Embattled White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers went straight to President Bill Clinton to get her head off the chopping block and came back with even more direct access to the Oval Office Friday.

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta announced a major White House staff reshuffle Friday, and Ms. Myers — whom Mr. Panetta had reportedly targeted for replacement by State Department spokesman Michael McCurry — kept her job and received a promotion.

Ms. Myers, 33, one of the most prominent women in the administration, will remain press secretary and was promoted from deputy assistant to the president to assistant to the president.

"Both the president and I have full confidence in her ability to handle that role," Panetta said during the White House press conference.

Mr. Myers was Mr. Clinton's spokeswoman during the 1992 presidential campaign. She met with Clinton Thursday night to discuss the job shuffle.

A major White House shakeup has been in the works since Mr. Panetta became chief of staff on June

26. It is the third shuffle for the office in 20 months.

The thrust of the orders is "to provide clear lines of responsibility, clear lines of authority and try to improve the efficiency of the staff itself," Mr. Panetta said.

His decisions came at a time when the administration has been rocked by a series of staff problems including the resignation of several high-level advisers involved in the Whitewater case.

Whitewater refers to the on-going investigation of the Clinton's involvement in land deals and campaign contributions by a savings and loan bank in Arkansas where he was state governor.

Mr. Panetta said that "good judgment has not always been exercised," an apparent reference to widely criticised contacts between the White House and Treasury on Whitewater.

Other top-job announcements included close presidential adviser George Stephanopoulos being officially named as Mr. Panetta's executive assistant.

Former Communications Director Mark Gearan will take up the new post of strategic planning director, reporting directly to Mr. Panetta.

Woman could face death in Singapore drug bust

SINGAPORE (Agencies) — Five Singaporeans, including a 20-year-old woman, were charged with drug trafficking Saturday and face the death penalty if convicted, authorities said.

The five, all ethnic Malays, were among nine people arrested Thursday during a raid that netted 414 grams (14.6 ounces) of heroin, said Masbollah Fazal, deputy director of the Central Narcotics Bureau.

The group includes four males, aged 22 to 34, and the woman, Rasidah Hashim. Three of the other four people rounded up in the raid face lesser charges of trafficking and drug possession, and one sent to the drug rehabilitation centre.

Under Singapore's tough drug laws, trafficking in more than 15 grams (half an ounce) of heroin or 500 grams (one lb) of cannabis is punishable by death.

Singapore Foreign Minister and Law Minister Shanmugam Jayakumar said Friday that 76 people, half of them foreigners, had been hanged in the island republic since the death penalty for drug offences was imposed in the 1970s.

Singapore ignored diplomatic and pressure-group appeals this week and executed a 59-year-old Dutch engineer for drug-trafficking Friday.

Johannes Van Damme, arrested at Changi Airport on Sept. 27, 1991, became the first Westerner to hang in Singapore for a drug offence.

The hanging Friday of the Dutch businessman has cast a "grey veil" over the Netherlands' relations with Singapore, Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok said in the Hague Friday night.

He said the Dutch government had summoned the Singapore charge d'affaires Friday to emphasise the "profound distress" caused by the hanging of Mr. Van Damme.

Mr. Kok said it was impressed upon Charge d'affaires Lim Iseli Kheng Hua that on both emotional and ethical grounds the Netherlands could not accept the decision to go ahead with Mr. Van Damme's execution.

Mr. Kok said the hanging demonstrated the cultural gap between the two countries. He said he had urged Ms. Lim to consider ways of bridging the gap by putting an end to "these particularly inhuman judicial procedures."

Mr. Kok said she appeared to be concerned by the matter.

Simpson drama approaches final act

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — O.J. Simpson's murder trial starts here Monday, three and a half months after the bloody deaths of the former football star's ex-wife and her friend mesmerised Americans and launched a national obsession.

Nearly every step of the case has been televised live. Across the country television and radio talks shows have been flooded by people airing their theories on who did it. Tourists pose for pictures at the murder scene while social commentators point to the case as the ultimate example of domestic violence.

Another key issue in the case is racism. A CNN television poll conducted in July found that only 29 per cent of black Americans believe Mr. Simpson can receive a fair trial, as opposed to 50 per cent of whites.

The prosecution's decision not to seek the death penalty appeased some who fear Mr. Simpson is being railroaded, but Joseph Lowery, the black president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, says the trial will still be a test of racial attitudes in the United States.

"You have a black male and two dead white persons," he said. "I'm not accusing anybody, I'm simply raising a question."

Simpson is accused of stabbing to death his ex-wife, Nicole Simpson, 35, and her 25-year-old friend, Ronald Goldman, outside her condominium. He has denied the

charges. The 47-year-old football legend gained fame in the 1970s as a running back for the Buffalo Bills.

He remained in the public eye as an actor, and when he fled police on the night of June 17, hours after he was formally charged with the murders, fans lined the Los Angeles freeways and cheered him on.

Many of his supporters have not been swayed by reports that Simpson was a jealous man, whose threats prompted Nicole Simpson to seek police protection several times during their marriage.

Nicole Simpson's white akita dog, its paws soaked in blood, led neighbours to the murder scene.

Prosecutors have painted Mr. Simpson as a cold-blooded but careless killer who left a trail of blood from the murder scene to his car. Tantalising reports of a bloody glove, and most recently bloody socks, said to have been found in Mr. Simpson's car or home have given the theorists material to work with.

The murder weapon, believed to be a 15-inch (37.5 cm) knife, has not been found, but chief prosecutor Marcia Clark says her case stands up without it.

Mr. Simpson's superstar has assembled a team of superstar lawyers to defend him.

They are led by Robert Shapiro, whose other clients have included Marlon Brando's son Christian, singer

Rod Stewart and baseball players Vince Coleman and Darrell Strawberry.

Johannie Cochran, who has represented Michael Jackson, courtroom legend F. Lee Bailey, and Mike Tyson's appeal lawyer Alan Dershowitz are also on the team.

Mr. Bailey, who represented Albert De Salvo in the Boston Strangler case, is expected to join Shapiro in the courtroom, while Mr. Dershowitz remains behind the scenes.

So far, the defence has tried to focus attention on arcane DNA evidence, which may or may not prove admissible in the jury trial.

They suffered a setback when Superior Court Judge Lance Ito allowed most of the physical evidence seized by police from Mr. Simpson's \$5 million estate, his business office and his car in the days after the killings.

Their next test will be jury selection from a pool of 1,000 which starts Monday and could last weeks. Opening statements to the jury probably will not start until November.

The trial is expected to be one of the most-watched in U.S. history. But Judge Ito, angered by inaccurate reporting by one Los Angeles television station, has threatened to pull the plug on broadcast coverage.

"I am contemplating terminating the media coverage in this case," Judge Ito said Friday, later explaining that he meant radio and television coverage.

Vatican condemns rise in prostitution

VATICAN CITY (AFP) —

The Vatican has condemned the rise in prostitution among young girls in a document, extracts of which were published by the Italian Bishop's News Agency (SIR). The statement, issued in June to U.I. experts in Geneva, has been drafted by the European Conference of the United Nations, meeting in Vienna from Oct. 17 to 21 to prepare for the Sixth World Conference for Women to take place in Beijing in September 1995.

"The sexual exploitation of young women through prostitution," the document said, "is causing moral and emotional harm by degrading people in the name of profit and often leaving young girls unable to return to normal life." The document also condemned sexual, moral and psychological violence against women. Elsewhere, Naples' Cardinal Archbishop Michele Giordano called a recent proposal by former Social Democrat deputy Antonio Bruno to reopen brothels, closed in Italy since 1958, as "cynical". In an interview with an Italian publication L'Espresso, the cardinal said "it was absurd to resolve problems linked with prostitution by opening brothels." "A society which continues to humiliate women and to make her an object in the market place is a society destined to collapse," he said.

Awards damage British women's prospects — report

LONDON (R) — Women's work and career prospects have been damaged in Britain by the scale of maternity leave and hefty compensation awards to women sacked for being pregnant, a management survey showed Friday.

Two thirds of businesswomen surveyed by the Institute of Directors (IOD) said recent awards adversely affected an employer's view of a woman applicant. More than half said extended maternity leave rights hurt their chances. "This survey shows that women still face considerable obstacles to career progression," Ann Robinson, head of the IOD policy group said in a statement.

Sixty per cent of those surveyed did not believe that equal opportunities for women existed, down from 74 per cent two years ago. Eighty-eight per cent said women faced obstacles at work as encountered by male counterparts, while 48 per cent of women said they had personally faced obstacles. Most of these, 62 per cent, said they faced them from the start of their careers. "These obstacles arise principally from two sources — attitudes to women in the workplace and the practical difficulties of combining a career with having a family," Mrs. Robinson said of the findings. "While the situation may be improving, there is clearly still a long way to go before women achieve a significant presence in top jobs in industry and commerce," she added.

However, there is much popular social and economic discontent. The day after the oil contract was signed with the Western consortium, oil and gas workers threatened to go on strike over poor pay and conditions.

While observers believe the four-month-old ceasefire in the disputed territory of Nagorno Karabakh (over which Azerbaijan has fought a six-year-war with neighbouring Armenia) and the clinching of the oil deal strengthens Mr. Aliyev's hand politically, opposition to Mr. Aliyev inside and outside the regime could yet bring about the coup so long talked about in Baku.

Tokyo International Film festival opens

KYOTO, Japan (AFP) —

The seventh annual Tokyo International Film Festival opened in this western Japanese city Saturday with entries vying for prizes in two categories. The venue of the festival, which originated in Tokyo to promote international exchanges, shifted to Kyoto this year as one of the events commemorating the 1,200th anniversary of the founding of the city. Prizes will be awarded in two categories — one for international entries and another for new talent.

Swiss army pigeons return to civilian life

BERN (AFP) — After 77

years of service in the Swiss army, 7,000 carrier pigeons will have to return to civilian life, the press reported. The Federal Military Department, quoted in Swiss dailies, said budget restrictions had forced early retirement on the birds, who were fondly known as the "winged messengers" and served under the banners of the 51st Transmission Regiment. The 266 men in charge of the demobilised birds will be reassigned to other duties in a budget cut estimated at \$45,000.



3rd body pulled from Hong Kong plane wreck

HONG KONG (R) — A third body was recovered Saturday from the submerged wreckage of a Hercules transport plane that plunged into Hong Kong harbour, killing at least three people.

A crew of 12 was aboard the plane at the time of the crash Friday night moments after take-off on the aircraft's third flight in 13 hours.

Three people are still missing and feared drowned. Six others are in hospital, one critically injured.

The flight recorder has not yet been recovered from the wreckage in Kowloon Bay and arrangements were being made to salvage the broken fuselage of the 12-year-old plane with a heavy-lift crane.

The airport, with its single runway jutting into the harbour off densely populated Kowloon, was closed for two hours following the accident. Fifty-two outbound flights and 39 incoming flights were delayed with two others cancelled, a government spokesman said.

All 12 on board were Indonesians. The Jakarta-based, British chartered 1100-30 transport plane had just returned to the British



Firemen carry an injured man out of an ambulance after a Hercules transport plane plunged into the water of Hong Kong harbour after take off (AFP photo)

colony to drop off Hong Kong police, prison service and immigration officials who had accompanied 33 Vietnamese boatpeople deported earlier in the day.

Buy Hong Kong's Secretary for Security Alistair Asprey said the accident would not halt Hong Kong's plan to continue deporting Vietnamese migrants.

A spokesman for Hong Kong's Civil Aviation Authority said it was too early to speculate on the cause of the accident.

Friday's crash marked the third time in six years that an aircraft has skidded off the single runway at Hong Kong's ageing airport and

into the heavily polluted waters of the harbour. It was the worst incident since a Trident operated by China's CAAC plunged off the runway into Kowloon Bay in 1988, killing seven.

Last November, all 296 passengers and crew on a Taiwanese B747-499 miraculously survived when the aircraft overshot the runway lashed by storm-force winds and ditched in the harbour.

Late last year, authorities halted on safety grounds the practice of aircraft taking off and landing in opposite directions, a system used late at night and in the early morning to cut down noise over Kowloon.

The cramped airport, which dates from before World War II, has one of the world's busiest runways, sandwiched between the harbour and teeming high-rise housing estates of Kowloon City.

The Indonesian-operated Hercules was taking off for its home base Jakarta and had reached an altitude of 60 metres when it suddenly flipped into the harbour.

The Hercules planes, a type which has been in service since 1952, was operated by Pelita Air Services of Indonesia and sub-chartered by Heavylift Cargo Airlines Ltd., a unit of Britain's Trafalgar House Plc.

Bosnian Serbs prevent U.N. patrols in weapons ban zone

SARAJEVO (R) — Defiant Bosnian Serbs have refused to let U.N. peacekeepers verify banned guns have been removed from around Sarajevo despite new sanctions and the threat of air strikes the U.N. said Saturday.

Military spokesman Koo Sol told journalists in Sarajevo the Serbs, angered by the destruction of one of their tanks by NATO warplanes, blocked special U.N. verification patrols from the Sarajevo weapons exclusion zone.

Mr. Sol said the checks "could not go on" although the U.N. has warned it may call in NATO air power unless the Serbs allow the 20 kilometres radius zone around the city.

Sarajevo Airport was on alert and no flights were planned Saturday after the Serbs said they could not guarantee the safety of relief planes which fly low over their guns when taking off and landing.

Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) forces were still firing at the airport and at United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops in spite of the NATO attack on the T-55 tank.

It was hit by warplanes after a French peacekeeper was seriously wounded by a Serb fire Thursday.

The NATO intervention and the imposition of new U.N. sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs were part of intensified efforts to make them comply with U.N. resolutions and to agree to a big power peace plan for Bosnia.

The sanctions agreed Friday ban foreign travel by political and military leaders of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb Republic and trade with the territory.

At the same time, the U.N. Security Council eased sanctions against rump Yugoslavia, restoring international air and sporting links, in return for Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's military blockade of the Bosnian Serbs.

With Belgrade's allies in



Ambassador Sergei Lavrov (2nd left), the Russian Federation's permanent representative to the United Nations, votes in favour of a Security Council resolution suspending some sanctions levied against the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro for its role in the Bosnian conflict. The resolution was approved with 11 yes votes and two abstentions. Rwanda's permanent representative, Ambassador Bakuramutsa Manzi (right), was one of those who abstained (AFP photo)

Moscow also out of patience with the Bosnian Serbs, they are virtually friendless in their confrontation with the big powers while U.S. pressure mounts for the lifting of a U.N. arms embargo against their Muslim foes.

Washington has set the Bosnian Serbs a deadline of Oct. 15 to accept the peace plan. It is encouraging the U.N. and NATO to strictly enforce the weapons exclusion zones imposed to protect Muslims from their adversary's military superiority.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said: "We're going to be watching Sarajevo very carefully and urging UNPROFOR in the strongest possible terms to enforce the exclusion zone."

BSA Commander General Ratko Mladic, a bellicose hardliner, responded to the pressure with a threat to retaliate against NATO and the U.N. chiefs who ordered the destruction of the tank.

The U.N.'s lightly armed forces and NATO aircraft are vulnerable to attack by the Bosnian Serbs who hold thousands of UNPROFOR soldiers as virtual hostages and are equipped with anti-aircraft missiles.

The Serbs anticipated the imposition of new sanctions by ruling out any further discussion of the peace plan until it was redrawn by the big power contact group which prepared it.

The plan divides Bosnia almost equally between the Serbs and a federation of Muslims and Croats. Serbs would be obliged to give up a third of the territory they control after 29 months of fighting.

The U.N.'s sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro were imposed in May 1992 to punish Mr. Milosevic for arming and organising the Bosnian Serb war machine as old Yugoslavia disintegrated.

A trade and oil embargo which have helped wreak economic havoc on them will remain despite the easing of some sanctions as a result of Mr. Milosevic's backing for the peace plan.

Deputy Yugoslav Foreign Minister Nikola Cacinovic said the relaxation was a "small step compared to the big moves made by Yugoslavia... we hope the Security Council will make a move towards complete lifting with more determination now."

The Security Council has

allowed the reopening of Belgrade Airport and Podgorica Airport in Montenegro to international flights once the secretary general is satisfied the blockade of the Bosnian Serbs is working.

Residents of Serbia and Montenegro heaved a sigh of relief Saturday as the United Nations lightened the embargo against them, but many said the move was unlikely to relieve the difficulties of their daily lives.

The Tanjug news agency said that "the Security Council has taken a first step towards repairing its own mistakes and has reintegrated Yugoslavia into the international community."

Although the "good news" announced by all Belgrade's radio and television stations early Saturday did not lead to an explosion of joy in the streets, passers-by said they were pleased that the "ice was broken" and said they hoped that "better days" lay ahead.

But for many of Yugoslavia's 10.5 million inhabitants who often find it difficult to meet their basic requirements after two years of sanctions, the move will not change much in their daily lives.

N. Korea to allow inspections once pact agreed

GENEVA (R) — North Korea indicated Saturday it would open up its atomic sites to full inspection once trust had been built up with the United States and both sides had agreed on a pact to restructure its nuclear industry.

But the Communist state warned Washington that its recent deployment of U.S. battleships in the Sea of Japan could torpedo a few round of talks in Geneva on Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

North Korea's chief negotiator Kang Sok-Ju said that once his country was satisfied with U.S. assurances that it would receive lightwater atomic reactors, it would eliminate any remaining suspicions over its nuclear programme.

In an unscheduled appearance before reporters at the North Korean mission in Geneva, a relaxed Kang reiterated that his country could not accept special inspections of suspect sites sought by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"We have ever recognised special inspections," he declared.

But Mr. Kang, a first deputy foreign minister, added: "In future, when both sides have built up trust and confidence and normal relations, we would be prepared to demonstrate the transparency of our nuclear activities."

The United States and its allies have long suspected that North Korea had in the past secretly syphoned off nuclear material from its one operational reactor to use in developing a crude nuclear device.

The Vienna-based IAEA, the United Nations nuclear watchdog, Friday renewed its call for inspection of two sites where it believes there could be evidence of nuclear arms development.

Mr. Kang's comments were seen as illustrating Pyongyang's willingness to comply eventually with IAEA agreements, to run in parallel with a multi-billion dollar operation to supply the isolated state with new reactors.

The deal may also hinge on an accord between Washington and Pyongyang — bitter adversaries since the 1950-53 Korean War — to open up diplomatic missions in each other's capitals.

Mr. Kang was speaking just before a meeting of technical experts of the two sides which North Korean officials said would aim to prepare a draft agreement on provision of light-water technology, hopefully to be completed next week.

Mr. Kang said once details were finalised, he and U.S. delegation chief Robert Gallucci would meet again. North Korean officials said another technical meeting was likely Monday before the next Kang-Gallucci encounter.

In a warning North Korea would not be pushed too far too soon, Mr. Kang said the deployment of a U.S. naval force in the Sea of Japan could endanger the current round of talks in Geneva.

"I must say now that any deployment of military hardware or of a military threat against one side of this dialogue would put a cloud over these discussions and jeopardise the possibility of any solution at these talks," Mr. Kang said.

U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Ronald Zampieri said in an interview published in an American

military newspaper this week that Washington had deployed the ships to send "a very strong message" to Pyongyang.

The group comprises the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk, three cruisers, a frigate and two logistics ships, he said.

Mr. Kang said there had been progress in his talks with Mr. Gallucci Friday. They focused on the replacement of North Korea's graphite reactors, two of which are under construction, with light-water plants producing little weapons-grade plutonium.

Pyongyang agreed to freeze much of its current nuclear industry plans after the last round of talks with the Americans in Geneva in August. In exchange, Washington said it would help North Korea obtain new plants.

"The question is how clear cut the U.S. assurances will be for the provision of a light-water reactor? And how clear cut and unambiguous U.S. steps will be to implement its own assurances?" Mr. Kang said, ruling out any involvement by rival South Korea in the operation.

Buthelezi defies king, gives Shaka Day speech

STANGER, South Africa (R) — South African Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi defied his king's ban of Shaka Day celebrations to speak to a crowd of 10,000 Saturday amid heavy security.

"I believe that the day of King Shaka should not be used for any party political wrangling or point scoring," Mr. Buthelezi told enthusiastic supporters gathered at King Shaka's memorial monument in the middle of this rural town.

As the Zulu chief spoke, hundreds of police and members of the South African National Defence Force armed with shotguns and assault rifles pointed the centre of town, nearby townships and large areas of KwaZulu-Natal province.

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini had ordered the Shaka Day festivities cancelled and broke off relations with his 65-year-old uncle after supporters of Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party stormed the royal residence early this week.

Mr. Buthelezi, speaking place of the 45-year-old king,

effectively claimed victory over his nephew and said the celebration honouring the founder of the Zulu nation in the 19th century was the biggest in decades.

"This year King Shaka's celebration is the largest in 40 years," Mr. Buthelezi told cheering supporters, most of them dressed in traditional leopard skins and brandishing clubs, sticks, spears and shields.

"King Shaka was a unifier of people. It would be wrong to use his commemorative functions to divide people instead of uniting them," he said, urging his supporters to unite to rebuild post-apartheid South Africa.

Streets were teeming with people and some arrived while Mr. Buthelezi was speaking for festivities around the monument where the Zulu warrior king's kraal was situated.

No incidents were reported, but violence monitors said clashes between those who heeded the king's call and Mr. Buthelezi supporters could happen after the rally

broke up. President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), which was Inkatha's chief rival in the violent period leading up to April's historic all-race elections in South Africa, had called on its members to stay away from the rally.

The rift between the conservative Buthelezi and King Goodwill is seen as benefiting the ANC, with King Goodwill moving closer to the ANC camp. But there are concerns that violence could erupt among rival factions in the nine-million strong Zulu tribe, South Africa's largest.

Violence in KwaZulu-Natal has eased since the elections but about 15,000 people have died in the past decade in fighting largely spurred by rivalry between Inkatha and the ANC.

Townships around the port city of Durban and Stanger were quiet earlier Saturday. The settlements had been wracked by political fighting among Zulus divided in loyalty to the ANC and Inkatha. Another service, also to be

addressed by Mr. Buthelezi, is to be held in KwaZulu-Natal. The township outside the port city of Durban is regarded by many as an ANC stronghold.

Mr. Buthelezi, who is home affairs minister in Mr. Mandela's government, said he was the one who fought for constitutional recognition of the Zulu monarchy in democratic South Africa.

"The fight to secure the Zulu monarchy was a fight for a democratic South Africa. It is not a fight for the Inkatha Freedom Party. I do not ride on the back of his majesty, the king of the Zulus," he told cheering supporters.

"If it were not for the Inkatha Freedom Party and myself, the monarchy would have been destroyed by now," he added.

Mr. Buthelezi did not comment directly on the rift or refer to his having been sacked as the king's traditional prime minister.

The official programme still described Mr. Buthelezi as "traditional prime minister to King Zwelithini."

Death toll rises to 22 in Philippine mudflows

PORAC, Philippines (R) — Mudflows thundering down the slopes of Mount Pinatubo volcano in the Philippines have killed at least 22 people and forced more than 78,000 to flee, relief officials said Saturday.

Rescue workers recovered four more bodies from villages near the volcano which were battered by mudflows Friday in the districts of Porac and Bacolor in pampanga province just north of Manila, the officials said.

Fresh mudflows, in some places up to 12 ft (four metres) high, hit both districts Saturday forcing thousands more people to evacuate their homes.

No further deaths have been reported, officials said. Among the latest evacuees was a month-old baby boy who had apparently been

abandoned. Police Superintendent Anecito Frany told reporters.

He said a rescue helicopter had spotted the baby lying in a box on top of an abandoned house.

Police and other emergency services were already on standby when the latest mudflows occurred.

Military helicopters and rubber boats were used to ferry villagers to safety. Schools in surrounding areas were turned into evacuation centres and tents are being set up.

Relief officials said 32,800 people had been evacuated from Bacolor and 45,300 from Porac.

Mudflows have been a constant threat since Pinatubo erupted in 1991, dumping millions of tons of ash and debris.

Chirac cold-shoulders joint ticket with Balladur

PARIS (R) — Conservative leader Jacques Chirac Saturday reacted coolly to calls for a joint campaign ticket with his rival presidential hopeful, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

A day after Mr. Balladur implicitly tagged him a loser in the most bruising battle between the two men so far, Mr. Chirac appeared anxious to distance himself from his probable fellow-contender for the nomination of the Rally for the Republic (RPR) party.

Asked about calls from inside the Gaullist party for him to run as president with Mr. Balladur as his designated prime minister, RPR leader Chirac firmly signalled the idea had long ceased to be relevant.

"That was thought up some time ago," he told

France-3 Television, adding with a sarcastic smile: "I don't think it was necessarily the worst solution."

Several RPR parliamentarians, anxious to defuse a damaging fratricidal war ahead of next year's presidential elections, had suggested the two run on a joint ticket.

But Mr. Chirac was quick to stress the differences between himself and Mr. Balladur.

"You mustn't always ascribe aggressive or perverse intentions to either one of us. Things are often much simpler than people think. We have different temperaments," Mr. Chirac said.

"He is him and I am me," Mr. Chirac said with emphasis, adopting a well-known phrase coined by former Premier Laurent Fabius.

Zaire will not be another Haiti — Japanese minister

GOMA, Zaire (AFP) — Japanese peacekeepers in Zaire will consider whether to open fire to defend aid workers or other threatened people on a "case-by-case" basis, Defence Minister Tokuchiro Tamazawa told AFP Saturday.

Asked what his troops would do if confronted with the sort of situation which saw U.S. troops stand by in Haiti earlier this week as a man was clubbed to death, he said: "We are here for the humanitarian operation and we expect that such things will never happen. The soldiers can fire only in self-defence."

Pressed on whether Japanese troops would open fire to protect themselves, but not others — such as aid workers in the volatile refugee camps around Goma — Mr. Tamazawa said: "Of course the possibility exists to help if there is danger and they are near us, for their protection. Case-by-case."

Mr. Tamazawa was in Goma to see preparations for the arrival of Japan's first foreign military mission under its own command since World War II.

He was met at the airport by Zairean Minister of Defence Mavuta Mudimo and escorted past a guard of honour by a goose-stepping officer wearing dark glasses.

With the Japanese flag flying over part of the French camp at the airfield, he was



A Zairean and a Japanese soldier talk at Goma command arrived Friday in Goma to help Rwandan refugees (AFP photo)

introduced to French officers overseeing their pullout from Goma, which is due to be completed by the end of the month.

Then Mr. Tamazawa and his delegation, accompanied by a mob of Japanese journalists and television crew paid a flying visit to Mugunga refugee camp outside Goma which houses some 220,000 people — up to 30,000 of them soldiers and militiamen of the defeated Rwandan army.

A motorcade of around 25 vehicles, escorted by truckloads of heavily-armed Zairean soldiers, some with mounted machineguns and blowing whistles, cut a swathe through the traffic and masses of people on the

road to Mugunga.

At the edge of the sprawling camp, Tamazawa inspected refugee hovels made of sticks, straw and U.N.-donated plastic, with refugees fleeing Zairean soldiers who cleared the way.

Later, he was due to meet the local governor before returning on his air Kenya charter flight to Nairobi.

An advance party of 20 Japanese soldiers arrived in Goma Friday to prepare for the arrival of the main contingent of 290 troops supported by 180 air force personnel on Oct. 2.

Japanese troops have taken part in U.N. operations in Cambodia and Mozambique since 1992, but their mission to Rwanda re-

fugees is the first under independent command since World War II.

They are due to provide mainly medical services and water purification, but many in Japan fear they could be sucked into the violence which is never far from the surface in this region.

Well-placed Western sources say there are strong indications, particularly from Mugunga camp, that the defeated Rwandan army is planning to launch an offensive in October to try to regain power.

The soldiers, mainly from the Hutu majority, fled the country ahead of rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic front mass murders of the Tutsi minority.

Armani, Ferre quizzed in Italian corruption probe

MILAN (R) — Designers Giorgio Armani and Franco Ferre, two of the biggest names in Italian fashion, were interrogated Saturday as part of a sweeping graft probe into tax authorities.

The two were quizzed by Italy's top anti-graft investigator Antonio Di Pietro over alleged bribes paid to Italian companies for easy payment during routine tax investigations.

Some of Italy's most famous designers have been touched by the probe, which has sent a shudder through the fashion world only days before the opening of Milan's

the industry's main international event.

The 50-year-old Ferre's organisation is suspected of having paid kickbacks to tax authorities in Milan, Italy's capital of fashion, state television said.

His interrogation was preceded by that of the silver-haired and untanned Armani, 60, whose ready-to-wear garments, renowned for their simple lines, cost up to \$10,000.

Italian News Agency (ANSA), quoting judicial sources, said the House of Armani was suspected of paying about 100 million lire (\$66,000) in kickbacks.

The designers' names added to the roll-call of top figures who have paraded through Mr. Di Pietro's office, an unwarranted distraction before next Saturday's opening of the fashion shows.

Recently, designers Kryzia

and Gianmaria Buccellati have been quizzed as part of the investigation, as was Santoro Versace, brother of fashion guru Gianni Versace.

Earlier Saturday, oil company executive Luciano De Camillo turned himself into the elite "clean hands" pool of graft-busters to answer their allegations that he helped Kryzia's company set up a system to pay kickbacks.

An arrest warrant was issued last week against Mr. De Camillo by magistrates who suspect Kryzia of paying a \$260,000 bribe.

Mr. Di Pietro, Italy's most popular magistrate, spearheaded the probes into corrupt links,

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Going the extra mile

THE DECISION by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to visit the Middle East by the beginning of October to reactivate the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace talks indicates that progress is expected. The gap between Tel Aviv and Damascus on the major two issues of withdrawal from the Golan and normalisation of ties seems to be narrowing, prompting Mr. Christopher to come to the area to push for a breakthrough in apparently stalemated negotiations.

What adds credence to the speculation that something is brewing on the Syrian front is the flurry of Israeli political activity on the Golan Heights. There has been talk recently in Israel of compensating Israeli settlers when the time becomes ripe for dismantling Jewish settlements on the Syrian lands. Even the Likud leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, is no longer viewing vacating the Golan as a taboo and instead insisting on keeping all of the Golan Heights as only a "starting" point for the negotiations with Damascus. The Likud's earlier conditions for either general elections or a referendum before withdrawal from the Golan are not expected to raise practical obstacles should Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Assad succeed in reaching a peace deal through U.S. mediations by the end of this year. Given President Assad's commitment for total peace in return for a complete Israeli withdrawal from Syrian territory, the gap between the two countries is anything but unbridgeable.

Whether American diplomacy is able to convene a high-level meeting, presumably between the foreign ministers of the two countries on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meetings in New York, remains to be seen. Such a meeting, symbolic as it may be, would certainly help warm the atmosphere of negotiations between the two. Yet the Syrians are determined on hearing a commitment first from the Israeli side for a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights in accordance with U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The Israeli side, led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, might just use the opportunity to declare such an intention at the General Assembly. Should that be the case, a real breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli front would be made.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Saturday decried lack of coordination among the Arab parties involved in the peace process with Israel, saying that the Madrid conference seems to have divided rather than gathered the Arab parties or unified their stand. Mahmoud Rimawi said that it is regrettable that relations among these parties are frozen or lukewarm, something which can by no means help the Arab Nation regain its usurped rights. It is regrettable also to see the peace process going along four rather than one track, with some of them moving forward faster than others. The writer said that the four Arab governments involved in the peace process should realise that the Arab people in Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria have a common denominator and their interests are one and the same; and they should therefore work towards streamlining their stand and pooling their efforts to arrive at the common objectives. It is hard to explain the present situation in which, said the writer, Arab parties are continually drifting away from one another the closer they move towards a deal with Israel.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Saturday said that the cost of living in Jordan has become unbearable while unemployment rates continue to grow every day. Problems facing Jordan on the domestic front are so many and so serious; and the government is called on to embark on practical steps to address the situation, said Taber Al Adwan. We do not expect the government to apply Socialism neither do we expect it to play the role of Robin Hood — taking away the wealth of the rich to give to the poor — but we expect rationalising public expenditure as well as applying social justice, said the writer. Our government, like any other in the world, cannot end the country's crisis with a magic but it can and should act in unison and in a team to find solutions to the chronic problems, said the writer. He said that the public feels that each department is striving to increase state revenues regardless of the public interest.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Are confidential negotiations in progress?

LOOKING AT the surface only, we may conclude that the Jordanian-Israeli peace process is going nowhere. But it seems that there is much more than meets the eye.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister and the intellectual engineer of the peace process, insists that peace negotiations with any Arab country should take place at distinct levels, one in the open, the purpose of which is to show a commitment to peace in front of TV cameras for all the people to see and accept, and the other in secret to exchange concessions away from the glare of the TV cameras and other media which may limit the ability of the negotiators to move, and may harden positions and prevent decision-makers from backing off on previously declared positions which were meant only as a starting point in the bargaining to maximise results.

At the same time we notice that three years of active Jordanian-Israeli negotiations in the open failed to produce more than a preliminary agenda which was hesitantly signed on Sept. 14, 1993, while huge achievements and a major breakthrough were made in a fast manner and crowned in the Washington Declaration. It is evident that this progress did not take place suddenly but was the outcome of a confidential track, the results of which were transferred to the official track, which appeared to have suddenly moved after a long period of stalemate.

Now we find that the official track of negotiations which took place at the two sides of the Dead Sea and at the shores of Tiberias are stagnant with no results worth mentioning. Yet the Jordanian people are told to rest assured that the peace process is doing fine and that the results are promising and the right decisions are being made to safeguard the best interests of the country, and the well-being of the people.

Putting these seemingly contradicting facts beside each other, namely the insistence of Israel on a secretive course

of negotiations, the breakthrough of July 1994, the stagnation in the formal course of negotiations, and the assurances which Jordanians recently received from their top leaders, then we can simply conclude that the real action is not that which we watch live at the TV screens, nor what Fayed Tarawneh, head of the Jordanian delegation is telling the media after each session. The most important thing takes place somewhere else without any noise.

In the meeting of the Jordanian journalists with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, I asked the premier directly whether a secretive track of negotiations existed. He did not confirm nor deny the assumption, but he mentioned meetings and talks that are taking place outside the ordinary negotiations. Therefore, the conclusion of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel within a few months could not be ruled out if the secret negotiations are, as we expect them, progressing faster despite the waste of time in the official negotiations.

Should the Jordanians worry that we may end up with a bad treaty, secretly cooked? I don't think so. The Jordanian rights and conditions are well-known and defined, no Jordanian official can accept less. We were told that 385.7 square kilometres of our land were seized by Israel and must be returned. No responsible Jordanian official can afford to accept 385 square kilometres and give away the remaining fraction.

Similarly we were told that we have the right to receive 100 million cubic metres of drinking water from Tiberias being our share in River Jordan. No responsible official can settle for less. As far as Yarmouk River is concerned, all Israeli objections and reservations against the implementation and international financing of Al Wahda Dam must be lifted. Other problems related to Yarmouk River will be worked out with Syria separately.



China's reformist road looks safe from a Soviet-style breakup

By Lyman Miller

WASHINGTON — Current opinion on China has an end-of-an-era tone, a sense of coming dynastic change. Deng Xiaoping has turned 90. In recent years, as Mr. Deng has retired from his official posts, China-watchers have maintained a death watch, expecting his imminent demise to set in motion political transition and perhaps disorder.

Some expect the sort of vicious factional conflict over succession that is typical of Communist states, leading quickly this time to the collapse of Communist Party. In its place, some see the outbreak of democracy, others the imposition of military authoritarianism in the name of maintaining order. For yet others, there is a prospect of the breakup of China, following the example of the Soviet Union.

This is probably a mistake. China is different from the Soviet Union, and our view of it should not be coloured too much by what happened there. Remember, it was only a few years ago that China was seen not as the repressive, reactionary Communist political fossil it seems today but rather as the front-running reformist Communist state. It seemed at least possible that China might succeed in building a new, market-driven economy out of its failing Stalinist planning system. China, not the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, seemed ripe for liberalising evolution, perhaps even revolution.

This overnight shift in perspective suggests caution against extreme predictions. For the foreseeable future, the continuities

in China before and after 1989 and Tiananmen may turn out to be as important as the undeniably impressive changes.

One of the key continuities is Communist political leadership. The leadership, headed by Mr. Deng, was the critical ingredient in the changes in China after 1978. It remains an important engine of change today.

China's foreign trade system to conform to international standards, and corporatising the money-losing state enterprise system. They were ratified at the highest party levels last October. Their endorsement shows that the party leadership is not paralysed and without a clear sense of policy direction.

Second, the resurgence of economic reform over

of Mr. Deng, the party elders whose disagreements dominated politics in the 1980s are a declining force. Death has already thinned their ranks. Four of the eight key elders died in the past two years, all from the conservative wing. The remaining elders are rarely heard on any issue. The key elder, of course, remains Mr. Deng. Attention in China's media to his rare public appearances and views seems orchestrated to reinforce present reform policies and to spotlight the roles of front-line leaders in preparation for his passing.

Last, the central leadership has not lost the means to control the provinces. Assertions of provincial autonomy, in which the provinces ignore Beijing and go their own way, rest on economic trends and are exaggerated.

In short, China's present top leaders comprise an activist leadership that is not weak, fragmented and waiting passively for Mr. Deng's passing or its own demise. The Communist regime indeed faces daunting problems of transforming China's economic system and governing a rapidly changing society. These tasks entail unpredictable challenges that may well overturn the regime in the end. But leadership paralysis, inflexibility, passivity and divisiveness are not likely to contribute to that outcome if present trends continue.

There are undoubtedly divisions and conflicts among these men, but to an unusual degree they have not crept into public view. Instead, public leadership activities show a rigorous effort to project a clear division of labour and observance of routine. Third, with the exception

Important movement on Syrian track

By G.H. Jansen

DAMASCUS — The present state of Israel-Syria track in the Middle East peace process, replete of lies and posturings by Israel, would be comic opera if it were not also perilously near complete breakdown.

The main recent development was that in July the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher convinced the Syrians that the Israelis now accepted that there could be no regional peace agreement without Syria, that there could be no peace with Syria without a withdrawal from the Golan, and that withdrawal had to be complete and total.

Though there was no mention of an actual Israeli withdrawal, the Syrians were gratified that the Israelis had moved almost all the way towards the one and only Syrian demand for complete withdrawal.

The deadlock was not broken but it was eased to the extent that the two ambassadors in Washington could hold technical discussions on the smaller issues consequent on an agreement on basic issues.

None of the parties concerned have referred to this important development, particularly not Israel where withdrawal from the Golan is an explosive issue. Instead of frankly admitting that Israel was changing its position, on which there had been hints that Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin asserted that an initial withdrawal from the Golan would be "marginal" followed by a three year probation period. For the Syrians this offer was merely grotesque and they rejected it.

However, suspecting that "something" was going on, hardliners in Israel opposed to any withdrawal increased their well-organised and noisy protests backed by the Likud opposition party in parliament.

Since Mr. Rabin has only a narrow majority in parliament, it did not take very much to convince it that pushing ahead with concessions on the Golan would almost certainly lead to its loss in the next election in 1996.

Accordingly, Israel is now vigorously back-pedalling away from even the appearance of concession. Hence the statement by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, a dove to Mr. Rabin's hawk, that there could be a marginal withdrawal before the elections but that any major withdrawal could only come three years after the election, that is in 1999. Which, for the Syrians, is utterly ludicrous.

The Syrians, always wary of Israeli duplicity, left themselves an escape hatch by saying that the present peace process was only one option, from which Syria could pull out. That would, virtually, mean the end of the process.

Corruption probes fuel fratricidal French race

By John Folain
Reuter

PARIS — A spate of corruption probes rocking France's political establishment is fuelling a backstabbing climate poisoning the race for next year's presidential elections.

The main victims are in the ruling coalition, which is being torn apart by the rivalry between two undeclared candidates — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, both of the conservative Rally for the Republic (RPR).

This week alone, two of Mr. Balladur's ministers have had to deny corruption allegations.

Suspicious that the allegations were being driven by politics surfaced at a two-day meeting of RPR parliamentarians in the eastern city of Colmar, which was dominated by the right's fratricidal war.

On the first day of the meeting on Thursday, a newspaper said Yvon and Sport Minister Michele Alliot-Marie was under investigation for alleged receiving payment from a pharmaceutical firm for fictitious consultancy work.

One party spokeswoman hinted heavily that this was part of the infighting between the two presidential hopefuls.

"There's nothing new in the report. The question is who has an interest in making this come out now?" she said, indicating that the answer was the Balladur camp because Minister Alliot-Marie is very close to Mr. Chirac.

According to the conservative daily Le Figaro, the rough-and-tumble scuffling by undeclared candidates in advance of the 1995 campaign has created a poisonous atmosphere in the coalition.

"people watch each other, people can't stand each other. Knives are being sharpened backstage. It's become a thieves' kitchen," said the paper.

Industry Minister Gerard Longuet is under pressure to quit for allegedly underpaying for building work on his holiday villa in Saint-Tropez.

Communications Minister Alain Carignon res-

igned in July shortly before being placed under investigation over the costly bailout of his campaign newspapers by public works groups.

Minister Alliot-Marie's case was disclosed in the daily Le Parisien, earlier this week a leaked judicial report on Mr. Longuet was splashed on the front page of the left-wing Liberation.

Justice Minister Pierre Mehaignerie, backing Mr. Longuet's claim that he was being hunted like a quarry, said on Friday that elected officials as well as company bosses should not have their reputations torn apart by the media.

"It's difficult to work with serenity in such a climate. The publication of judicial reports is highly abnormal," he told the daily Le Monde.

"You say there is a plethora of scandals. But there aren't more scandals today than yesterday. The difference is that today they are coming out," Mr. Mehaignerie added.

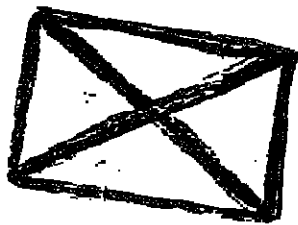
According to unions representing judges, the political scandals surfacing today are the fruit of pioneering probes in the 1980s into Socialist Party fundraising.

A new generation of investigating magistrates feels more independent than its predecessors in conducting probes. The clean-up campaign in Italy has also helped "legitimise" the role of France's judiciary.

"It's become more difficult to shelve scandals," said Jean-Claude Bonvier, general secretary at the "Just Magistrates' Syndicate." "When Socialist corruption came out, it was like Pandora's box. It blew the lid on everything."

"The barrage of investigations rocked the race for the presidency," Mr. Bonvier cautioned however that he embittered atmosphere could hurt the judge efforts.

"People like Mr. Longuet saying they are the victims of persecution, of political manoeuvring. That could help pave the way for putting a rein on the judge," he said.



Haitians at U.S. camp in Cuba still fear return

By Jane Arraf

Reuters

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba — While Haitians line the streets of Port-au-Prince to cheer American soldiers, thousands of Haitian refugees languish in a U.S. base in Cuba say they won't go home until President Jean Bertrand Aristide is back.

Many of the refugees, physically and psychologically scarred by years of political violence and seething with frustration, say they will not feel safe even then.

In the first visit by foreign reporters to Guantanamo Bay since Washington agreed with Haiti's military leaders on the weekend to avert an invasion to restore Mr. Aristide, refugees Thursday said it would take more than the arrival of U.S. troops to convince them to return.

"Even if Aristide comes back we will not be safe," said Desire Jean Phaniel, holding a picture of his horribly-disfigured wife, fatally burned in a fire believed set by paramilitary thugs in a Port-au-Prince slum last December.

Suzie Dijon, dressed in street clothes for the last photo before she died, was sitting on the edge of an iron hospital bed trying to smile for the camera.

But the 29-year-old woman's face had melted, leaving only a smooth sheet of plastic-looking skin where her left eye had been.

"One of my babies died with her," Mr. Phaniel, who fled Haiti four months ago, told Reuters.

Other refugees, noting military leader Raoul Cedras had reneged on his last promise to the United States to step down, said they would return after making sure that Mr. Aristide did.

Giant loudspeakers broadcast a translation from the camp's Creole radio station of the populist president's latest address calling for Haitians to rebuild their country.

Some of the refugees expressed disbelief when told that the last-minute agreement brokered by former



RUNNING FOR LIFE: A Haitian woman in Port-au-Prince tries to get on a bus leaving the capital to the countryside where Haitians believe they will be safer (AFP photo)

U.S. president Jimmy Carter did not call for the Haitian military to be disarmed — a major complaint of Mr. Aristide.

"They will keep their guns?" asked a bewildered school teacher from the southern town of Anse

d'Haunault who fled paramilitary gunmen. "We love our country but if the military stays we cannot go back."

Fourteen thousand Haitians are crammed into what was meant to be a temporary camp on the

U.S. base surrounding the bay in eastern Cuba. Across the way, another 20,000 Cuban refugees crowd another tent city thrown up after a Miami-bound exodus from the other side of the island.

The U.S. military has ex-

panded the tent city onto Guantanamo Bay's golf course and evacuated dependants of U.S. personnel because of security fears.

Both sides of the camp have erupted in sporadic violence.

Military police arrested

100 of the Haitians Monday after a protest over food turned into a stone-throwing riot which injured three American servicemen, military officials said.

Other camp officials said Monday's riot began after Haitians learned that the

agreement did not call for Gen. Cedras to leave the country.

"I understand the frustration level is high in all the camps," Commander Rick Thomas told reporters.

"I think the temperature in the camps has gone down

some but I think the frustration level is going to stay there because Guantanamo Bay, Cuba is not where they want to be."

The camp is hot, crowded and smelly. With no schools and no recreation, many of the refugees lie for hours at a time on their cots set up in rows of tents on the airport tarmac. Meal time, with what the refugees call a monotonous diet of rice, beans and some meat, is a focal point of the day.

On Thursday, crowds of Haitians inside the fenced compound surrounded foreign visitors, some shaking with rage at what they said were terrible conditions in the camp. "Look at my shoes," two of them screamed, waving broken sandals at a reporter.

"President Clinton, nobody can stay in Haiti," "we ask for political asylum," read the scrawled messages on cardboard signs held up by Haitians behind a barbed wire fence. One man displayed machete wounds on his arm and stomach.

U.N. refugee officials said they would resume finding out which Haitians wanted to be immediately returned home.

"Many might wait and see what happens but there are indications that if Aristide comes back, they will want to return," said Ralf Gruenert, of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He said he could not estimate the number.

Over 5,700 refugees have chosen to go back to their troubled homeland rather than stay in Guantanamo Bay since the United States began diverting boat people picked up at sea to the U.S. base in June. Virtually all have been trying to get to Miami.

U.S. military officials said they could not say when the United States would consider Haiti stable enough to forcibly repatriate all the refugees.

"Aristide will come back but what about everything that's happened?" said Anna Edouers, 20, who said her mother and brother had been killed by the paramilitary and she had no home to go back to.

Election result won't affect nuclear German plans

By J. Terence Gallagher

Reuters

BONN — Germany's main political parties have drawn their battle lines over nuclear energy but the country's policy is unlikely to change quickly whoever wins the Oct. 16 general election.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD), who hope to gain power for the first time in 12 years, are committed to abandoning nuclear power, but party leaders are thinking in terms of decades, not months.

"To build a new energy supply structure beyond nuclear energy will take more time than many of the environmentalist politicians among us had hoped," Lower Saxony Premier Gerhard Schroeder said recently.

"It will take at least 30 years. It cannot be done in less time."

Mr. Schroeder has been earmarked to head a new "super-ministry" combining economics, energy and transport if the SPD ousts Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition.

Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) favour a gradual expansion of nuclear power and hope to implement a much-debated plan to store nuclear waste and reprocess fuel rods domestically.

Without reprocessing of its own, Germany has to pay dearly to have the work done in Britain and France.

The Free Democratic Party, junior partners in the coalition, has said a withdrawal from nuclear power would be difficult, especially since Germany is also trying to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels which pollute the atmosphere.

For more than 10 years, SPD state governments have delayed construction and blocked the opening of nuclear plants, including a

nuclear waste dump at Gorleben in Lower Saxony and a fuel reprocessing plant at Hanau, near Frankfurt.

The environmentalist Greens Party, potential coalition partners for the SPD, takes an even harder line, calling for rapid abandonment of nuclear power.

A new CDU-led government in Bonn would still face the same intense local opposition, politicians and analysts say.

Talks between the SPD and the ruling coalition aimed at reaching a consensus on the nuclear issue broke down last October and subsequent talks on issues such as the Gorleben dump have ended without agreement.

Even if the nuclear power plants were shut down tomorrow, the waste problem would remain for thousands of years.

"All German political parties are agreed on the need to find an appropriate site for permanent storage of nuclear waste," said Heinrich Seesing, a CDU member of parliament and spokesman on energy issues.

Monika Griefahn, Lower Saxony's environment minister who has been earmarked for the same post in an SPD government in Bonn, said her party recognised that Germany needed permanent storage of nuclear waste.

"But Gorleben is geologically unsuitable and a search must be made for an appropriate site," she told reporters.

Although committed to nuclear power, the CDU has been influenced by widespread concern about the environment.

"The CDU also wants increased security and safety for reactors," said Mr. Seesing. If returned to office, it plans to amend the atomic power law to provide for greater safety.

Jimmy Carter — from president to peacemaker

By David Nagy

Reuters

WASHINGTON — After his triumph in securing an agreement to avert an invasion of Haiti, Jimmy Carter now looks a strong favourite to win the Nobel Peace Prize, which is due to be announced in October.

The former U.S. president, whose achievements in the White House fell short of his own expectations, has earned a formidable reputation as a globe-trotting mediator and peacemaker intent on defusing international crises.

In 1994 alone — 13 years since leaving the White House — the Georgian with the toothy grin and honksuckle accent jumped into centre stage in two major world hot spots.

He led a U.S. delegation dispatched to Haiti by President Bill Clinton to persuade that country's military junta to step down, let democratically elected Jean-Bertrand Aristide return to power and avert a U.S. invasion of their country. Mr. Aristide was ousted in a bloody coup in September 1991.

Last June, the Democratic elder statesman mounted a self-assigned peace mission to North Korea, helping to temper a nuclear dispute that many feared could have led to a new war on the divided Korean peninsula.

Mr. Carter has been nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, at least the fifth time he has been nominated, because of his many peacemaking efforts. Some analysts speculated his efforts in Port-au-Prince could clinch him the prize, which will be announced October 14 in Oslo, Norway.

Mr. Carter, who was

president from 1977 to 1981, met in June with North Korea's now-dead Stalinist leader Kim Il-Sung over Mr. Kim's refusal to allow international inspectors to verify that plutonium from a nuclear power plant was not being diverted to make nuclear weapons.

The United States, a close ally of South Korea, put on hold a planned military buildup after Mr. Carter phoned the White House and notified Mr. Clinton that Mr. Kim had softened his hardline stance against inspections.

In 1976, when America was still reeling from the Watergate scandals, Mr. Carter campaigned as a champion of the people who would restore integrity and competence to government. He formally took office in January 1977.

The former Georgia governor breezed out of nowhere to win the Democratic Party nomination, defeat incumbent Republican President Gerald Ford and take office as a kind of modern populist hero.

In 1980, with the economy crumbling and the Iran hostage crisis inflaming passions, he was swept from office by Ronald Reagan in a defeat of humbling proportions. Mr. Reagan took office in January 1981.

The conservative Republican, pledging to restore America to world respect and leadership, won 44 of the 50 states, including all of Mr. Carter's native south except Georgia.

Mr. Carter returned home to Plains, Georgia, and for some years led a life of relative obscurity, treated like a pariah by the leaders of his own party and shunned by its candidates. But he eventually replaced the forgotten-man

image with that of busy elder statesman and diplomatic mediator, using skills honed at the White House in promoting historic Israeli-Egyptian peace talks — and winning far more public affection than he ever enjoyed as president.

"People who thought he was a disaster in the White House regard him as a model elder statesman," columnist Mary McGrory wrote of his rebound. "He goes everywhere, doing good."

Indulging a passion for "crisis resolution" and operating as a private citizen from his Carter Centre in Atlanta, he promoted peace talks between Ethiopia and Eritrean rebels and headed an observer team at 1990 Nicaraguan elections that shifted power from the Sandinistas to the opposition.

He led a similar observer delegation at elections in Panama in 1989 and lent authoritative voice to charges the ballot had been sabotaged by strongman Manuel Noriega.

By 1993, he was an honoured visitor at fellow Democrat Bill Clinton's White House, backing Mr. Clinton up in his efforts to win passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement and helping celebrate the Israeli-Palestinian peace breakthrough.

Mr. Carter also regularly donated his services as a skilled carpenter to build housing for the poor. With wife Rosalynn he wrote a 1987 best-seller, "Everything to Gain: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life."

Looking back from the vantage point of these retirement projects, the driven and stiff-necked



U.S. President Bill Clinton (right) listens as House. Mr. Carter was sent to Haiti as part of a delegation trying to avert a U.S. invasion of the island (AFP photo)

leader of old seemed mellow and happy in a 1991 television film, "Citizen Carter."

Asked to assess his own presidency, he said: "He tried hard, attempted the right things, was not always successful. Maybe he was naive in many ways."

He added: "The biggest failure we had was a political failure. I never was able to convince the American people that I was a forceful

and strong leader." He left office with one epic foreign policy achievement — the 1979 Camp David accord between Egypt and Israel — plus a modest list of domestic reforms.

He brought Egypt's President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to Camp David for grueling negotiations Sept. 6-17, 1978. Later, when the accords

seemed to be unravelling, Mr. Carter saved the day by flying to Cairo and Jerusalem for personal shuttle diplomacy.

The treaties ended a state of war between Israel and Egypt, provided for Israeli withdrawal from Egypt's Sinai peninsula and established diplomatic relations. They were signed at the White House on March 26, 1979.

World Bank to propose debt plan for poor states

LONDON (R) — The World Bank is to propose a new solution to cut the crippling debts of the world's poorest countries, international banking sources said Friday.

The plan, called "reducing the debt burden of poor countries," is expected to be announced at the annual meetings of the bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) which open officially on Oct. 4 in Madrid.

The plan aims to eliminate all types of debt including that owed to banks, other countries and multilateral institutions.

The scheme is aimed mostly at low income countries which the bank defines as those with a per capita income of less than \$675 per year. These countries include Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Zambia and Nicaragua.

"The basic argument of the paper is the need for a new and sequenced approach to the problem of debt," one source told Reuters. "It's based on what we call the 'holy trinity'."

The trinity stipulates that countries will firstly get no support to reduce debts unless they have a track record of economic reform under programmes agreed with the bank and fund.

Second, all new financing must only be accepted on a grant, aid or highly concessional basis.

Thirdly, the treatment must ensure enough debt reduction and/or concessional new money to extricate the country from the constant need to reschedule.

The banking sources said the plan has a five-point attack on the debt problem:

- 1) All medium and long-term debt owed to commercial banks which trades at a discount to face value on secondary markets should be eliminated.
- 2) Short-term debt such as trade finance could also be included in a buy-back.
- 3) There should be maximum possible cancellation of bilateral official development assistance.
- 4) There should be more elimination of debts owed to the Paris Club, which informally groups country creditors.
- 5) Debt owed to multilateral institutions must be eased by maintaining and augmenting existing mechanisms.

Kozyrev pleads for easier Russian access to world markets

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's foreign minister has warned that disgruntled citizens may vote for extremists in Russia's next election unless the government gains greater access to world markets to develop the country's economy.

Andrei Kozyrev said that if the Russian government was not given the means to speed up its push towards external markets "it will be swept away in the next elections by right-wing or left-wing extremists and any talk about a partnership with the West will be out of the question."

In a front-page article in the liberal Russian daily Kommersant, Mr. Kozyrev asked for Russia to be accepted into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organisation.

Mr. Kozyrev said Russia was "worthy" of joining the Paris Club of creditors and asked the European Union to lift anti-dumping measures slapped onto Russian goods.

He also called for stronger cooperation between the West and Russia against the "black market" such as the traffic in nuclear material and money laundering.

Mr. Kozyrev said that it was time to move beyond the "vestiges of the Cold War" and "lift our economic relations to the level of our political ones." He deplored that some Western governments were still approaching the issue of trade with Russia "based on old criteria," whereas the situation has "changed radically" in the past two years.

He cited the "creation of a political G-8" in Naples — a reference to Russia's participation in the recent Naples summit of the meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) world's most industrialised countries — and the partnership agreements signed with the European Union.

He also said the political situation had "stabilised" and that reforms had created an "economy of transition" in Russia "founded in most cases on market principles."

"Russia's role as the locomotive of economic reforms in the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) has become clear. The Russian market has become the magnet for all the ex-Soviet states."

Western politicians and economists must stop considering Russia's role as economic leader within the CIS as "imperialism" but should understand that "Russia's economic growth is in everybody's interest."

Ending sanctions no quick fix for shattered Yugoslav economy

BELGRADE (R) — The shattered Yugoslav economy faces a long road to recovery if sanctions are lifted to reward President Milosevic for his blockade of the Bosnian Serbs.

Dragan, one of Belgrade's ubiquitous roadside petrol sellers, dismisses predictions of an end to sanctions against Serbian-led Yugoslavia as "communist propaganda."

This may be no more than bravado from a man earning more than 10 times the average wage on the black market and who does not want to face the day when motorists can buy fuel from a petrol station again and not from one of his plastic bottles.

Sanctions against Yugoslavia are expected to be eased within weeks to reward Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic for his efforts to force the Bosnian Serbs, whom he fuelled and armed from the start of the war in 1992, to accept peace.

Initial measures such as opening Belgrade airport to international flights and reestablishing sports and cultural links with the rest of the world may have little effect on the economy as a whole.

But diplomats believe that once the process of easing sanctions has begun, the remaining measures affecting trade will look increasingly inappropriate and pressure will grow to have them lifted.

Removing sanctions after more than 2½ years will not open the way to a new dawn of economic prosperity to an economy ravaged by the scourges of an international embargo, economic mismanagement and the cost of financing the war in Bosnia.

Even if a peace settlement is achieved in Bosnia, international investors are likely to be wary of moving into an area as potentially unstable as rump Yugoslavia, now comprised of Serbia and Montenegro.

The Yugoslav economy has put behind it the hyperinflation that peaked at 60 per cent a day last January. Prices stabilised following the introduction of a recovery programme masterminded by National Bank Governor Dragoslav Avramovic.

But signs are emerging that a central plank of Mr. Avramovic's recovery platform, the "super dinar" pegged at parity to the German mark, is beginning to crumble.

Dragan and his fellow petrol dealers will sell you a litre of smuggled shell from Hungary at 2.40 marks (\$1.54), but if you want to pay in local currency it will cost 2.60 dinars.

The shops in Belgrade are full of smuggled whisky, sports shoes and blue jeans, but wages are too low for most people to buy any more than the things they cannot do without.

"On the surface, it looks reasonably healthy out there but it's a deceptive picture," a Western diplomat said. "Only essential goods are moving from the shops because of the gap between wages and prices."

Nor will the removal of sanctions bring an immediate boost to an economy where industrial production has fallen by two-thirds since 1989 and only stabilised at a relatively low level since the recovery programme came in at the start of the year.

The Serbs have lost their old markets in Croatia and Slovenia which have seceded. Unemployment, including workers on forced leave, is estimated at around 65 per cent.

Heavy industry like the Zastava Car Company has seen a drastic drop in output. It suffers from having to sell products which are not competitive in foreign markets.

"To get that up and running with a product of export quality requires a major investment and the chances of that are very poor," the diplomat said.

There are smaller, more flexible enterprises in private hands which stand a better chance of success once sanctions are lifted, but industries such as steelmaking are lost causes without huge foreign investment.

"If sanctions were lifted tomorrow, there would be no pot of gold appearing on people's doorsteps," the diplomat said, adding that economic recovery would be slow, even if international bodies could be relied on for aid — something that Serbia's recent political unpopularity may hamper.

Federal Reserve chief gives U.S. banks clean bill of health

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Thursday U.S. banks were healthy and have demonstrated their resilience in bouncing back from a crisis three years ago.

"Given the industry's experience as recently as three years ago, its current condition is the positive testament to its resilience and strength," he told the Senate Banking Committee.

Banks have posted record profit since 1991 and significantly improved their reserves, he said.

"Nonetheless, I would urge the industry to guard against letting reserves decline too far. Although asset quality has improved sharply, banks should ensure that their loss provisions and reserves remain adequate to support unidentified losses and the pace of loan growth," he said.

Mr. Greenspan urged the Congress to rescind laws barring banks from selling insurance and shares.

"We need to achieve a proper balance to prevent excessive risk-taking while not discouraging banks from taking risks in responding to legitimate needs of the customers," Mr. Greenspan said.

He said the losses suffered by three of the top 50 U.S. banks in financial derivatives was a useful warning.

However, his overall assessment was upbeat. "The banking system is stronger now than it has been in many years and it seems well prepared to meet the nation's credit needs," he said.

The chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Andrew Hove said U.S. banks earned \$43.1 billion in 1993 with a record 1.2 per cent return on capital.

The first half of 1994 indicated that the earnings trend continued with a record return on capital of 1.7 per cent and earnings at \$22 billion for the first half, said Mr. Hove. He said 96 per cent of banks showed profits.

However he warned, "while we have not seen an erosion of bank profitability as a result of recent interest rate increases, a significant interest rate hike could result in difficulties."

Meanwhile, the savings and loan industry experienced its third consecutive year of profitability with only eight failing in 1993 compared to 81 in 1992.

Think-tank: IMF should take up lead in managing exchange rates

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) should assume management of a system of target zones for major currency exchange rates, the Institute for International Economics (IIE) has said.

Such a system would restore "the monetary responsibilities of that institution," the IIE, a Washington based economic think-tank, said in its report, "Managing the World Economy: Fifty Years After Bretton Woods."

The creation of target areas or fluctuation bands "of plus or minus 10 per cent," varying in relation to the economic fundamentals of the economies involved, is not likely to generate much enthusiasm among the leading industrialised nations, IIE Director Fred Bergsten and former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker said.

In effect, these nations have never recognised the existence of levels where international central banks intervene in concert to defend a currency, although this activity takes place on a "de facto basis," they added.

The IIE also proposed strengthening the role of the IMF in supervising and regulating financial markets and an extension of international agreements on direct private investment through the new World Trade Organisation.

The IIE recommended the creation of a Global Environmental Organisation to raise environmental issues from the national to the international level. Environmental issues could also be tied into trade and other international issues.

The IIE proposed the creation of a G-3, a Group of Three economic powerhouses — the United States, The European Union, and Japan — for "more effective collective leadership of the global economic system," as well as enlarged role for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

The institute recommended the elimination of "institutions that are no longer needed," such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The IIE recommended the selection of the best available individuals to lead the international economic institutions "jettisoning the anachronistic practice of allocating each position to a certain geographic area," such as Europe heading up the IMF while the United States head the World Bank.

The IIE hosts some of the leading economists in the world. It is recognised as influential upon the Clinton Administration.

ASEAN invites EU to step up investment in the Asian market

STUTTGART, Germany (AFP) — The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Saturday called on European Union (EU) business leaders to step up their investment in the Asian market.

Speaking at an EU-ASEAN conference in the southern German city of Stuttgart, Singapore's Foreign Minister Sharmugan Jayakumar appealed to EU entrepreneurs to use ASEAN countries as "trampolines" into the booming economies of Asia.

Mr. Jayakumar said EU businessmen had to adopt a new trading and investment mentality, to catch up with U.S. and Japanese investment.

European investment in Asia had fallen back over the past 30 years in comparison with that made by Japan and the United States, he said.

Mr. Jayakumar said that by the end of the century, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand would together account for 35 per cent of global gross national product (GNP).

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said the conference, which opened Friday in the nearby city of Karlsruhe, aimed at boosting economic links between Europe and South East Asia and easing mutual market access, had already been a success.

German and Asian professional representatives signed a resolution stressing the "enormous potential" offered by increasing economic links between Europe and Asia Mr. Kinkel said.

He announced the creation of an "ad hoc group" of European and Asian "personalities" to boost trade links between the two market places.

He said the European Union was to set up European business information centres in Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Manila and an ASEAN-EU Management Centre is to open in Brunei in May.

Mr. Jayakumar meanwhile repeated his government's rejection of any linking between trade interests and concern over social affairs, such as human rights, in the countries with which the trade was going on.

He said the liberalisation of trade in itself affected human rights as it made people better off materially, but accused Europeans of wanting to export their social values by linking trade agreements to Western rights ideals.

"We should not link trade to social and human rights issues," he said. "Developing countries view the social clause as a thinly-disguised attempt to sustain uncompetitive industries in the developed economies."

"Only by maintaining free and open trade can wealth, better living conditions and job security be created. Human rights are best fostered by increased trade and investment ties," he stressed.

Berthold Leibinger, a board member of the Federation of German Industry (BDI), said it was clear that both German and ASEAN commerce wanted to strengthen their cooperation.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when it is necessary that you do everything in a meticulous fashion; although it is in no way exciting, if you expect conditions to work out well. Gain public prestige as you avoid quarrels on the home front.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to show gratitude to those who have done you favours and gain their added goodwill and support. Keep cheerful.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have good ideas which should be discussed with others who can assist you to make them work successfully and to your benefit.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan how to get the situation improved at home and tonight don't go overboard in spending for pleasure or you could be left with nothing.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Communicate with others and garner the information you need in order to get your daily tasks completed efficiently.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Plan those practical affairs you want to handle which could bring you added prosperity and tonight avoid making calls to quarrelsome chums.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a fine day for thinking about yourself and your fondest aims and how to gain them. Improve your state of health.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Concentrating upon some new philosophy of life is wise during the daytime. Tonight get your wardrobe in fine order so you can look sharp.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you do something special for a good friend, you gain much goodwill for the future. Show your appreciation of good things.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A good day to tone up your health and system so that you can see bigwigs during the coming week and make headway towards your success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a good day for spiritual studies which can help you immensely in the future. Steer clear of irate fellow associates.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your hunches are very good today. Rely only upon your mature judgment. Steer clear of suspicious newcomers.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take care you do not irritate your allies and friends in any way now, otherwise, there could be serious trouble. Tonight, spend time on finances.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Anglin

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VEROL
BERPO
KOFERD
KIALLY

Our records show this is overdue

WHAT THE ACCOUNTANT TURNED REMAINED.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: THYME ABHOR MPUGN RADISH
Answer: What the tallest player gave his coach — HIGH HOPES

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n' Jeff

THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins

ACROSS

1. Cried garb
2. The rain in falls
3. Joop (Two)
4. Expeller
5. Plazzo
6. and the Swan
7. Bogie classic
8. People, e.g.
9. Affections
10. Evergreen Bay
11. Seed types
12. Tempo
13. Mexican dish
14. Fosse, e.g.
15. 200
16. Party
17. On the (not friendly)
18. Kun (Asian desert)
19. The moon
20. Old-time country letters
21. Flap the wings
22. wild
23. 40 Bean
24. Shoe width
25. Pleads
26. Flagues
27. Augur
28. Winkle
29. Expedition
30. Marcus
31. Forcun
32. Money machine: abbr.
33. Last Tudor sovereign
34. Roman road
35. your Mel
36. Right away
37. Signs of ascent
38. well it
39. went done
40. Tater

DOWN

1. Baseball great
2. Gov. safety
3. Borscht veggie
4. Geological division
5. El
6. Twosomes
7. Basics
8. Stevedore's
9. sp.
10. Guard talk
11. Hollow stem
12. Theaters
13. Cloverleaf
14. Plained
15. Coll. area
16. 23 More
17. contemtable
18. Use at tub
19. Vowel hat
20. Treat badly
21. Farmer attorney general
22. Smokes
23. Nucleus
24. Bird topper
25. Instances
26. Old enough
27. Newstand
28. Complaint
29. Corn on
41. Nourish
42. Que
43. Petroleum gas
44. Bucky Ball Max
45. Straight or
46. Area meas.
47. Self-pard.
48. Nourish
49. Que
50. Over
51. Biblical person
52. Look after
53. Blue
54. Curve type

Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 22/9/94	Bele York Close 23/9/94
Sterling Pound	1.5750	1.5770
Deutsche Mark	1.5465	1.5485
Swiss Franc	1.2845	1.2865
French Franc	5.2875	5.2935
Japanese Yen	98.05	97.83
European Currency Unit	1.2316	1.2350

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 23/9/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.75	5.00	5.31	5.87
Sterling Pound	5.25	5.75	6.37	7.51
Deutsche Mark	4.81	4.87	5.06	5.50
Swiss Franc	3.75	3.81	4.12	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.63	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.12	2.25	2.43

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 24/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6950
Sterling Pound	1.0966	1.1021
Deutsche Mark	0.4492	0.4514
Swiss Franc	0.5404	0.5431
French Franc	0.1315	0.1320
Japanese Yen	0.7084	0.7119
Dutch Guilder	0.4007	0.4027
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0446	0.0448
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Other Currencies Date: 24/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6300	1.6490
Lebanese Lira	0.040945	0.042025
Saudi Riyal	0.1853	0.1871
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3490
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1920
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Rial	1.7870	1.8150
UAE Dirham	0.1885	0.1898
Greek Drachma	0.2785	0.3135
Cypriot Pound	1.3650	1.4935

\$4b U.S.-Pakistan energy deals signed

ISLAMABAD (R) — U.S. businessmen signed energy agreements with Pakistani industrialists Saturday envisaging an investment of about \$4 billion.

A total of 16 agreements, whose signing was witnessed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, were concluded during a visit to Pakistan by U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, who headed a large U.S. business delegation.

The accords, worth more than an original estimate of \$3 billion, were signed despite recent tensions between the United States and Pakistan over Islamabad's alleged nuclear ambitions.

The United States cut off all military and new economic aid in 1990 over the nuclear issue, blocking the transfer of F-16 fighter jets already paid for by Islamabad.

Ms. Bhutto, in brief remarks after the signing ceremony, called the agreements a landmark in private sector investment in Pakistan in 11 months of her government.

"Today Pakistan is a country which offers macro-economic stability, and macro-economic stability comes about if a government has the public support to take harsh measures that are necessary to put the economy on track," she said.

Ms. Bhutto said Saturday's agreements envisaged an investment of nearly \$4 billion. She gave no exact figure.

Pakistan says it has acquired the capability to make nuclear weapons, but has taken a policy decision not to do so.

Arab Gulf states seek compromise with EU on oil tax

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states, which produce nearly one fifth of the world's oil output, are to hold more negotiations with the European Union (EU) to find a compromise to a planned energy tax, a senior Gulf official was quoted as saying.

"We are still at the stage of dialogue with the EU based on the fact that there should be a link between environment and development," said Sheikh Fahim Al Qassimi, secretary general of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"In case any taxes are imposed on oil, their impact on development in other countries should be considered. We are studying all these issues with the EU and we hope we will reach a compromise formula," he told the UAE daily Al Itihad.

GCC states and other oil producers have strongly attacked the proposed carbon tax on the grounds it will depress demand for crude and hit their economies.

The tax, which could reach \$10 per imported barrel of oil by the year 2000, hinges on approval by Japan and the United States.

Egyptian cotton crop forecast to fall 23%

CAIRO (R) — The size of Egypt's cotton crop will fall about 23 per cent this season, to about 264,000 tonnes of lint compared with 343,400 tonnes in 1993, the government newspaper Al Ahras said Saturday.

The decline is due to both a reduction in the area planted and a fall in the average yield, according to figures attributed to agriculture ministry consultant Saad Nassar.

For seed cotton, the forecast is about 314,000 tonnes, compared with 416,000 last year, he said. The first estimate after the harvest is complete will be announced on Oct. 23.

In this growing season, which is now drawing to a close, Egyptian farmers

planted 303,000 hectares (748,721 acres) with cotton, against 371,490 hectares (917,961 acres) last year. Most of the rest of the land was planted with rice or maize, Mr. Nassar said.

The ministry expects the average yield of lint cotton to be between 851 and 894 kilograms per hectare (2.47 acres), averaging 872 kilograms compared with a 60-year record of 926 kilograms last year, he said.

Opposition newspapers have said the cotton crop has suffered badly from a decision to limit aerial spraying and reduce the amount of pesticide used to combat the boll weevil.

But Agriculture Minister Yousef Wali said last week that the crop was excellent

and the yield among the highest ever.

Domestic consumption is about 340,000 tonnes of cotton a year but some of that is cheap cotton imported so the country can export more of its own high-value long-staple cotton.

Exports in the cotton marketing year which ended on Aug. 31 reached 371,000 bales, or 121,000 tonnes, and exporting officials do not expect the fall in production to cause problems with meeting export demand in the year 1994/5.

"We think our stock will be enough to cover all requirements, domestically and for exports," said Samir Anis of the state-owned Holding Company for Cotton.

Japanese carmakers to use cheap car strategy for Asia

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese carmakers are to fight aggressive marketing by U.S. and European rivals in Asia with a new low-priced car strategy.

Toyota Motor Corp. has said it is considering plans to develop a low-priced car in the 1300-1500 cc range just for the southeast Asia market.

Honda Motor Corp. also plans to make smaller cars, costing up to 30 per cent less than current models, possibly starting 1996, for the domestic market and rest of Asia.

Mitsubishi Motor Corp. has followed suit with a project to introduce cheaper cars in China and other Asian nations to meet growing demand, the Yomiuri Shinbun reported Saturday.

Mitsubishi, which has

started talks with China's Northern Motor Corp. over the project, plans to sell the new car, modeled on its Lancer model, for about 500,000 yen (\$5,000), the daily said.

Market competition is particularly strong in China, which is planning to lift restrictions on foreign investment in its car industry by 1996.

Volkswagen of Germany and Chrysler of the United States have already launched joint ventures in China.

Japanese carmakers are now scrambling to catch up with Toyota and Honda starting negotiation with several Chinese carmakers to set up auto ventures.

Japanese carmakers dispatched their officials to China last week.

Japan struck by discount fever

TOKYO (AFP) — Notorious for being the most expensive country in the world and a frustrating market for foreigners, Japan is in the grip of a fierce retailing war that has ignited "discount fever" among the nation's long-suffering consumers.

"The price war has begun," declared Shiroaki Yamauchi, head of marketing for the Yamaya distribution chain, which sells alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks at prices 30 to 50 per cent less than in traditional stores.

"For a long time, Japanese consumers had no idea of prices outside Japan," said Mr. Yamauchi, who offers lower prices by eliminating the middleman and selling straight to the public. "But paying three times more for the product is quite stupid, they now realise this."

Boosting the retail buncaners is a study released last week by Japan's Economic Planning Department that found food in Tokyo to be 1.88 times more costly than in Paris and 2.5 times more expensive than in London.

In some cases, with the high-valued yen making differences more acute, prices can be 300 to 400 per cent higher. A 33-centiliter (10-ounce) bottle of Japanese beer costs 225 yen (\$2.25) in a Tokyo supermarket, compared to the equivalent of 40 to 50 yen for local beer in the United States or Europe.

A liter (1.8 pints) of milk costs 200 yen in Japan compared to 60 yen in a typical European supermarket. The price of beef in Japan is simply astronomical, reaching \$120 per kilogramme — roughly eight times the price in Europe. As for rice, a dietary staple here, the much-fleeced Japanese household has to pay two to six times more than in other countries.

But the power of large retail monopolies to dictate prices may be over.

It has been breached by fierce competition among a few distributors that are hammering down prices, particularly on imported products.

"The era in which manufacturers held sway over consumer is definitely over," predicts Isao Nakachi, president of the giant food distribution company Daiichi, which in 1992 was one of the first to open hostilities with low-priced orange juice, followed by cheaper beer this year.

Orange juice fell from 350 yen a liter to 168 yen, while Japanese beer is now in competition with beers from the Netherlands, the United States, Belgium and China, which are half the price.

The result is that foreign beer grabbed three per cent of the market for the first five months of this year, up from 1.7 per cent last year, although the discounts are now offering Japanese beer at cut rates.

Daiichi continued its price offensive in March by selling imported camera film at 166 yen for a 24-frame roll, compared to 529 yen for competing Japanese brands.

The price-slashers owe much of their success to international pressure on Tokyo to bulldoze through regulations and practices that have cosseted Japanese shopkeepers for decades.

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Ipswich down champions United

LONDON (AFP) — Ipswich's Paul Mason shocked champions Manchester United with two goals in their 3-2 topsy-turvy win at Portman Road in the English Premiership Saturday.

But Newcastle remained top of the Premiership despite drawing 1-1 at home to Liverpool.

United, the toast of England last year as they won the Premiership and F.A. Cup, were humbled by two first half strikes from the former Aberdeen player.

United were on top early on, but Mason knocked the ball in at the far post on the quarter hour to open the score. Mason beat stand-in keeper Gary Walsh again just before half-time — a great left foot effort which Walsh could only get a finger to.

But Manchester United's Eric Cantona pulled a goal back in the second half. Paul Scholes, one of coach Alex Ferguson's younger players then hit the equaliser to complete what seemed a great escape.

But in the 81st minute, Canadian Frank Yallop crossed from the right for former Tottenham player Steve Sedgley to score the winner.

Robert Lee, of leaders Newcastle, put them ahead in

the 50th minute against coach Kevin Keegan's former club, Liverpool.

At 0-0 at half-time, Lee collected the ball on the edge of the box after the break and fired into the top left hand corner from an acute angle. But Liverpool's veteran striker Ian Rush hit a 25-yarder which bobbed and swerved to equalise.

Keegan, who tied up the 2.25 million-pound (\$3.4 million) signing of Derby striker Paul Kitson before kick-off, now only has a two-point cushion over Blackburn opposite number Kenny Dalglish.

Blackburn's Alan Shearer scored twice, once from the spot, against Aston Villa and Chris Sutton got the other in a 3-1 win. Villa's Nigerian Ugo Ehiogu pulled a goal back in the last minute.

Tottenham Hotspurs leaky defence cost them dear once more as they fell 4-1 to Nottingham Forest at White Hart Lane. Ilie Dumitrescu brought Spurs back into the game against Nottingham Forest to equalise in the 32nd minute, 20 minutes after Steve Stone had put the Premiership newcomers ahead.

Teddy Sheringham had a chance of putting Spurs ahead on the stroke of half-

time, but again missed from the spot. A header from Brian Roy after the interval brought Tottenham a 2-1 lead, before he sidefooted a third.

Then Norwegian international Lars Bohinen clipped home to finish the scoring and keep their unbeaten record.

Dion Dublin kept up his remarkable scoring record since his 2-million move from Manchester United to Coventry.

He scored his third goal in three games after only two minutes to put Phil Neal's team ahead against Southampton at Highfield Road. But two goals from Ian Dowie and another from Hans Eklund gave Saints a 3-1 victory.

Chelsea's Paul Furlong earned his side a 1-0 victory in their derby at Crystal Palace.

Alan Reeves's goal for Wimbledon was enough for a 1-0 win at QPR, and Niall Quinn and Uwe Rossler gave Manchester City a 2-0 win at home to Norwich.

Everton's Gary Ablett put Everton ahead in the second half against Leicester, but Mark Draper equalised for Leicester for a 1-1 final scoreline.

Berger wins pole at Portuguese Grand Prix

ESTORIL, Portugal (AP) — Damon Hill used his overhauled Williams to shave 37 thousandths of a second off his provisional time Saturday, but it still left Gerhard Berger and Ferrari on the pole for Sunday's Portuguese Grand Prix.

Berger, who set the fastest time of 1:20.608 on Friday on the 4.36-kilometre Fernando Pires da Silva Circuit outside Lisbon, didn't improve on his time from Friday. But it still was good enough for him to win his second pole of the year.

Hill, needing a victory in Estoril to close within one point of idled Formula One championship leader Michael Schumacher, pushed his Williams hard Saturday, but his time of 1:20.766 was still 0.158 seconds slower than Berger.

Berger, however, is not entirely comfortable with his Ferrari.

"I had a few problems — the car is handling a bit strangely," Berger said. "I had a good lap yesterday so there was no need to take risk today and maybe hurt myself."

In an attempt to catch Berger Friday, Hill slipped his Williams near the end of qualifying, leaving the Briton shaken up but without injury.

Hill's countryman and teammate David Coulthard cut 0.087 of a second off his Friday time to 1:21.033 and retain his starting spot on the inside of the second row.

Mika Hakkinen was unable to improve his time but kept his McLaren fourth with a time of 1:21.251 and will be followed by a Ferrari of Frenchman Jean Alesi (1:21.517), Ukio Katayama's Tyrrell-Yamaha (1:21.590), Martin Brundle in the other McLaren (1:21.565), and Rubens Barrichello of Brazil in a Jordan-Hart (1:21.796).

Hill's car needed a new engine, suspension, bodywork and wings after his tangle Friday with the Eddie Irvine's Jordan-Hart that somersaulted the Williams into a gravel pit.

The 24-year-old Briton said he and his crew worked into the evening on the car's new setup until "we thought we were within shouting distance" of Ferrari's best time.

Hill clocked the best time in Saturday morning's practice and then was first out of the pits for qualifying. He gradually improved his time before clouds formed over Estoril.

A victory Sunday would move Hill within one point of Schumacher with three races remaining on the Formula One calendar. Schumacher is serving the second of his two-race suspension for ignoring a black flag at Silverstone earlier this season.

Although Berger is third in the points standings, he is 43 points behind Schumacher and cannot win the title. However, he is trying to demonstrate Ferrari is returning to competitiveness this season after four years without a victory.

He won the German Grand Prix in July after taking the pole and Alesi won the pole for the Italian Grand Prix two weeks ago.



The Williams-Renault driven by British Damon Hill is firing in the air after hitting Eddie Irvine's Jordan Hart during the

first practice for the Portuguese Grand Prix in Estoril Friday (AFP photo)

English fans praise peaceful World Cup

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — England did not have a team at the World Cup finals in the United States. But its fans, often the worst behaved, praised the organisers for producing one of the best tournaments ever.

Launching a conference aimed at organising the 1996 European Championship, which England hosts, the (English) Football Supporters Association (FSA) Friday congratulated the Americans for producing "one of the best tournaments in recent memory."

"They spent millions of dollars promoting the World Cup and creating a real 'vibe' around the stadium," said the FSA's international officer, Steve Beauchamp.

"This, allied to the complete absence of crowd disorder, created a joyous occasion and gave a true world flavour to these events."

While the FSA sent a five-man delegation to the United States, hundreds more English fans travelled to combine the World Cup with vacations even though the national team failed to qualify.

None were reportedly involved in any crowd trouble in what was one of the most peaceful tournaments on record.

Although a World Cup record 3.6 million fans watched the 52 games, police reported only some 300 arrests, mostly for minor incidents such as ticket scalping.

Bremen feel the heat of Bundesliga

BONN (AFP) — League leaders Werder Bremen felt the heat here on Saturday as their rivals all won to stay in touch at the top of the Bundesliga.

Borussia Dortmund, FC Kaiserslautern and Karlsruhe all won to join Bayern Munich on nine points, two behind Bremen who had won on Friday.

Dortmund were the most impressive winners, with Swiss star striker Stefan Chapuisat and Andreas Möller both grabbing two goals in the 5-0 drubbing of visitors Stuttgart.

Möller's first came after just four minutes and Chapuisat's double in the 11th and 14th minutes killed off the game straight away.

Kaiserslautern won 3-1 at home against Schalke 04 while Karlsruhe produced a great escape with a dramatic 4-3 win at Cologne, Heiko Bonan's winner coming one minute from time after the home side had led 2-0 in the early stages.

The biggest score of the day from Borussia Moenchengladbach, who cracked seven past hapless Bochum, Effenberg scoring in the 16th and 87th minutes.

Bremen had won 2-0 against Duisburg on Friday, while Bayern Munich beat Munich 1860 3-1 earlier in the week.

Al Hussein, Al Wihdat lead in first division soccer tourney

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Hussein and Al Wihdat clubs remained in the lead of the Jordan Soccer Federation first division league championship after defeating Al Jeel and Al Qadissieh respectively. Although both teams have eight points after the conclusion of the fourth week of competition, Al Hussein beat Al Jeel 2-1 in a match held at Irbid stadium. Al Hussein's goals were scored by Muneeb Gharabeh and Fayed Youssef.

Al Wihdat also defeated Al Qadissieh 1-0 Friday. Jamal Mahmoud scored Al Wihdat's goal.

Irbid's Knfr Soom Club fell from second to fourth place after being crushed by Al Ramtha 4-0 in a match held in Irbid.

Muwafaq Abu Hudeib scored two goals for Al Ramtha, which climbed to third place, and his colleagues Hussein Al Shannah and Badran Al Sharan each scored one goal.

In another match, Al Faisali overcame eighth-placed Al Jazirah 2-1. Jamal Abu Abed and Jiriyis Tados scored for Al Faisali and Amjad Abu Tu'ameh scored Al Jazirah's only goal.

Also Thursday, Al Arabi defeated Al Karmel 2-1. Al Karmel opened scoring in the second half by its striker Mahmoud Suleiman, but Al Arabi's players fought hard to adjust the result, scoring two goals by Ahmad Al Kilani and Ayman Al Omari.

The fourth week matches were opened Wednesday by a crushing victory of 4-0 for Shabab Al Hussein over Al Ahli.

Shabab Al Hussein's three goals and Wa'el Kattout only one.

Standings after 4th week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Hussein	4	4	—	—	15	2	8
Wihdat	4	4	—	—	5	—	8
Ramtha	4	2	2	—	8	3	6
Knfr Soom	4	3	—	1	11	9	6
Faisali	4	2	1	1	8	3	5
Ahli	4	1	2	1	7	6	4
Shabab Al Hussein	4	1	1	2	3	4	3
Jazirah	4	1	1	2	3	8	3
Jeel	4	—	1	3	3	8	1
Qadissieh	4	—	1	3	4	10	1
Karmel	4	—	—	4	1	9	—

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Japan hopes diplomacy will resolve sports row

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Saturday Tokyo was seeking to resolve a row over a visit to Japan by a top official from Taiwan through diplomatic efforts.

Japan has granted a visa to Taiwan Vice Premier Hsu Li-Teh to allow him to attend the Hiroshima Asian Games due to start Oct. 2.

The move provoked strong objections from China, which sees Taiwan as a constituent, if rebellious, province.

Murayama told reporters that Foreign Minister Yohsei Kono had contacted the Chinese government to try to persuade Beijing to drop its opposition to Hsu's visit.

"I think Foreign Minister Kono is making contact. We will make some efforts," he was quoted as saying by Kyodo news service.

Taiwan has said Hsu would attend the Hiroshima Games to promote Taiwan's bid to host the 2002 Asian Games, the Beijing rejects the claim, saying Taiwan has not yet been selected as a candidate city.

Chinese Olympic Committee chief Wei Jizhong sent a telegram to Hiroshima Games organizer Takayoshi Fukushima urging Japan to go back on its decision to grant a visa.

Wei said he met Olympic Council of Asia chief Sheikh Fahad Al Ahmad in Kuwait and quoted him as opposing the issuance of an Asian Games identification card to Hsu.

A spokesman with the Hiroshima Games said they were currently trying to contact the head of the Olympic Council of Asia in Kuwait to talk to him directly about the matter.

"We are trying to reach Kuwait to try to confirm what the latest situation is, any new developments would have to come after that," he

said. China, sporting the largest delegation, has raised the spectre of a boycott if Hsu attends and has warned Japan of "grave consequences" if it fails to keep Hsu out.

A record 7,300 athletes and officials from 42 nations are due to take part in the Hiroshima Games.

Palestinians pull out of games

JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestinians have been forced to withdraw from what would have been their first appearance in the Asian Games for lack of money, an official told AFP.

However a small delegation of administrators expect to make the trip to Hiroshima, Japan, for the event from Oct. 1-16, said the official from the youth and sports "ministry" in the Palestinian self-rule authority.

The football team hoped to take part and the draw for the games was altered at the last minute to accommodate them.

S.Korea hopes to beat Japan in medal race

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea hopes to beat Japan in the race for medals at next month's Asian Games but harbours little hope of besting powerhouse China, officials said Friday.

"We are no match for the Chinese, but we will try hard to beat the Japanese," said Kim Chong-Duk, a performance analyst with the South Korean delegation.

South Korea, which placed second after China in the 1986 and 1990 games, hopes to win 60 to 68 of the 377 gold medals at stake in Hiroshima. In the Beijing games in 1990, it earned 54 golds.

The South will have a 756-member delegation, including 579 athletes, and compete in all but two of the 34 sports during the Oct. 2-16 games. It will not field teams in karate and kabaddi.

Team officials said they are looking to sweep the golds in archery, and also perform well in shooting and weightlifting.

The new addition of karate, a traditional Japanese martial art, and the advantage of competing in their home country could strengthen Japan's chances.

"A margin of two or three gold medals will decide the race," Kim said.

South Korea's standing could also depend on how it fares against five former Soviet republics in Central Asia — Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, Kirghizistan and Turkmenistan — which will join the Asian Games for the first time this year.

The newcomers are strong competitors in wrestling and boxing, in which South Korea has previously earned many gold medals.

Officials here believe that a good South Korean performance in Hiroshima might help Pusan, the nation's second-largest city, win the right to host the 2002 games. Other bidders are Jakarta and Taipei.

Pacemaking Maroof springs Ascot shock

ASCOT, England (R) — Maroof, the 66-1 outsider, sprang one of the biggest shocks in British horse racing for years when making all the running to win the Group One Queen Elizabeth II Stakes Saturday.

Ridden by Richard Hills, Maroof was seen by many as pacemaker for the better-fancied Mehthaaf, the mount of Willie Carson.

But trainer Robert Armstrong insisted Maroof was in the race on his own merits and so it proved, the four-year-old holding off 11-1 chance Barathia by one and a quarter lengths.

French-trained Bigstone, ridden by Frankie Dettori, was a further length away in third place.

The mile (1.6 km) race was among the most hotly contested Group One event in Europe in years. Between them eight of the nine runners had won 16 Group One races, including six classics.

Racing experts had given realistic chances to all eight but none considered the ninth runner, Maroof, whose record before Saturday read just three wins from 12 races, all below Group One standard.

Sheikh Hamdan's manager Angus Gold admitted to being "a bit stunned," but added: "Robert Armstrong has always loved Maroof and the horse has been unlucky this year."

Maroof led by about two lengths into the straight where it was thought the colt would be quickly swamped. But when Distant View, the 2-1 favourite, threw down his challenge with 300 metres left, Pat Eddery's mount was quickly repulsed.

Barathia, ridden by Michael Kinane, and 10-1 chance Bigstone then emerged from the pack, but Maroof galloped on resolutely to send bookmakers home the happiest of men.

Qatar wins marathon event at the 5th International Arabian Horse Home Show

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Obeid Ghadeer of the United Arab Emirates won the first place in the marathon event closing the five-day International Arabian Horse Home Show held at the Royal Stables.

Ghadeer crossed the 43-kilometre race on "Rahal" in 1.43.41. Amer Thamer of Iraq came in second on "Jenbid" in 2.04.28. United Arab Emirates Ali Ammery on "Nawasi" placed third with 2.06.47.

In the junior competition, Faisal Shardoun on "Tibers" won first place covering 22 kilometres in 51.56 minutes. The second place went to Ghath Sa'eh on "Karo," clocking 55.29 minutes and the third place went to Sa'ad Kharabsheh on "Su'ad".

The marathon competition started east of Al Muwager and ended at Amra Castle in the desert. More than 40 horses competed in the competition that lasted seven hours.

Her Royal Highness Princess Iman Bint Al Hussein Friday clinched the first place in the jumping championship, followed by Zaid Sharab. In the "spoon and egg" and the "kangaroo" competitions Nadine Abu Jaber came in first in both competitions and Princess Iman was in second also in the two events.

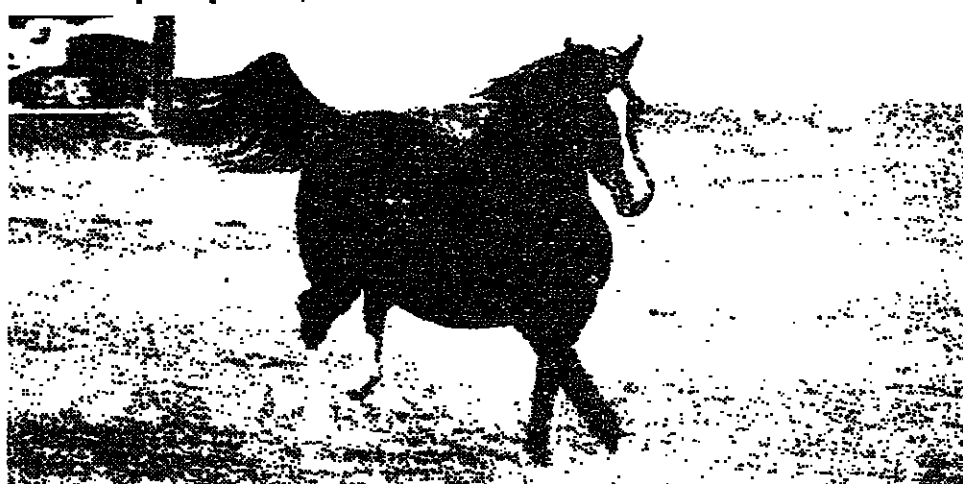
The "musical chair competition," was won by Zaid Sharab and Abeer Khatib was second.

Only Jordan and Qatar participated in the Middle East Championship for Beauty Friday. Qatar's "Amada Malaha" clinched first place while "Kamasia," also of Qatar, came in second.

In the senior male championship, Jordanian horses dominated the show. Jordan's "Skidsly" and "Zowar," won first and second places respectively. As for the senior women



His Majesty King Hussein Friday presents the first place prize to Zaid Sharab in the musical chairs championship. Below, one of the horses amuses the crowd during the Middle East Championship. (Photos by Rana Hussein)



competition, Qatar's "Amirah" won the first place and Jordanian horse "Ziadah" placed second. The supreme male competition was won by "Jerash" and "Freemage" of Jordan.

In the mare produced groups, "Amperia," won first place, followed by "Amada Malaha" of Qatar. And in the Sire Produce groups "Skidsly" won first place and "Jerash" came in second.

In the junior Liberty Championships, "Inho Angoli" won the first place. The second place

was won by "Simson Chas," and in the senior competition "Nijmeh" of Jordan won first place, and "Fahel Tarika" came in second.

On Thursday Jordanian horses dominated the shows in the male and female competitions.

Jordanian horses maintained their domination throughout the day by winning the junior and advanced competition. Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Friday attended part of the activities, then distributed trophies to the winners.

The five day event saw more than 170 horses from nine countries including Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, France, Britain, the United States and Jordan, competing in the fifth International Arabia Horse Home Show.

The show which was organised by the Royal Jordanian Arabian Horse Association, headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, aimed at exposing Arab culture and traditions and to demonstrate the endurance of Arabia horses.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& YAMAH HIRSH
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TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 8 7
♥ A Q
♦ Q 8 3 2
♣ A K 5

WEST
♠ K 6 3 2
♥ 5 4
♦ K 7 5
♣ J 7 4

EAST
♠ J 10 9
♥ 7 3 2
♦ A 10 9
♣ Q 10 9 3

SOUTH
♠ Q 5 4
♥ K J 10 8 6
♦ 4
♣ 8 6 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass
2NT Pass 4♥ Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠. Before playing to the first trick, check to see if there is more than one line for your contract. If you can't combine them, choose the line with the best chance.

The bidding is not without interest. Once North showed a balanced hand with 19-20 points, South decided to play in the suit game—at no trump the South hand might not produce a single trick. A direct four hearts was correct—to first bid three hearts and then correct three no trump to four hearts would suggest mild slam interest.

West led the four of clubs, giving the defenders a tempo in their effort to develop a club trick. There were four possible losers—two in spades and one in each minor suit. The simple way to play the hand is to win the first trick, draw trumps, cash the ace of spades and lead a spade toward the queen. If East has the king, and that will be the case 50 percent of the time, the spade losers are limited to one and the contract sails home.

Is that the best line? Not by a long shot. The seven missing diamonds will break 4-3 just about 82 percent of the time. In addition, you can set up the queen of diamonds if either defender holds A K bare.

To establish and use the long diamond will take every one of dummy's entries, so lead a diamond from the table at trick two. Win the club return, ruff a diamond, cross to the queen of trumps and ruff another diamond. When both defenders follow, you are home. Get to the board with the ace of trumps to ruff another diamond, draw the outstanding trump and cross to the ace of spades to take a discard on the good diamond. Incidentally, if a defender shows out on the second trump, fall back on finding the king of spades with East, because you will exhaust yourself of trumps the other way and not be able to enjoy the fifth diamond.

Skah wins World Half Marathon

OSLO (AFP) — Morocco's Khalid Skah won the World Half Marathon championship here Saturday in 1 hour 27 seconds, ahead of Mexico's Silva and Brazil's Ronaldo da Costa.

The 10,000m Olympic champion was just outside Kenyan Paul Tergat's world best performance of the year of 1:00.13.

"I thought I could go under the one hour mark today," said Skah, who is married to a Norwegian. "But I did not want to force the pace and (Skah and Silva) decided to stay together to please the public with a close finish."

Skah, 27, and Silva, 26, ran the final kilometres of the 21.0975km event in friendly mood on a course which began outside Bislett, but finished in the famous stadium.

Russia defeats Germany to reach Davis Cup final

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Russia reached the Davis Cup final for the first time when Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy won Saturday's doubles to give their team an unbeatable 3-0 over defending champion Germany.

The Russians beat the German pair of Michael Stich and Karsten Braasch 6-4, 7-6 (7-1), 3-6, 6-7 (3-7), 10-8, ending the hopes of the three-time champion.

Kafelnikov and Olhovskiy wasted a match point in the fourth set, and saved three in the fifth before winning in three hours, 39 minutes.

Sunday's reverse singles cannot change the outcome of the best-of-five series. Russia had never advanced past the first round of the Davis Cup since it joined the 94-year-old competition in 1962, then as the Soviet Union.

Germany lost at home for the first time since the 3-2 defeat by Sweden in the 1985 final.

In December's final, Russia will meet the winner of the other semifinal between the United States and Sweden.

"I think we can even win the cup," Russian captain Vadim Borisov said.

Kafelnikov beat Bernd Karbacher and Alexander Volkov upset Stich Friday to put Russia 2-0 ahead after the opening day.

Stich decided to play Saturday although he had received a death threat late Thursday and appeared listless during his loss to Volkov.

Organisers stepped up security by bringing more bodyguards to the Rothenbaum arena, bodyguards also shadowed Stich's wife Jessica.

Germany needed to win

Saturday's doubles to stay alive and the German pair broke for a 2-1 lead on Kafelnikov's serve.

But the Russians broke right back and took control of the match. With Stich serving, the Germans saved one set point, but the Russians clinched the set when Braasch hit a forehand into the net.

There were no breaks in the second set and the Russians swept the tiebreak 7-1.

The match turned late in the third set. The Germans gained two break points on Kafelnikov's serve. Braasch scored with a volley and the Germans broke for a 5-3 lead. Stich served out the set, which ended with Olhovskiy hitting a forehand long.

The Germans appeared headed to level the score when they broke Olhovskiy for a 3-2 lead in the fourth set. The Russians saved two

break points but Stich set up the third with a lob and Kafelnikov's backhand volley attempt ended in the net.

The Russians broke right back, again on Stich's serve, with Kafelnikov hitting a brilliant backhand diagonal shot that even escaped Stich's great reach.

With Braasch serving to keep Germany's hopes of defending the cup alive, the Russians gained a match point when Braasch hit a wild smash into the stands. But Braasch saved with an ace and then produced two service winners to force a tiebreak.

And the Germans survived, winning the tiebreak 7-3 and sending the match into the decisive fifth set.

The Russians immediately broke Braasch's serve when the German sent a volley wide and took command of

the fifth set. They saved three break points in the four game.

But the Germans were not finished. They broke Olhovskiy's serve to level 4-4.

From then on it was a even battle until the 16 game, when the Russians hit to save three match point on Olhovskiy's serve.

"If you don't use your opportunities, you lose Kafelnikov said."

With Braasch serving the next game, Olhovskiy converted Russia's third break point with a volley give his team a 9-8 lead. Kafelnikov served for the match and faced a break point, but Braasch sent weak volley attempt into the net. A service winner gave Russia its second match point and Kafelnikov thundered serve that Braasch returned into the net.

THE INDIAN SUB CONTINENT

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Algiers to free Madani, Belhadj

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian authorities have promised to release shortly two leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) under house arrest, their former co-detainees said in an interview published Saturday.

FIS President Abassi Madani and Vice-President Ali Belhadj have been held under house arrest since Sept. 13, when the authorities freed them from prison in a bid to promote talks on ending an extremist Muslim rebellion in the country. They were serving long sentences for endangering national security.

Three other FIS officials held with them but released unconditionally told the satirical weekly *Al Wajj* Al Akhar: "We asked the (Algerian) leadership for the (two men's) period under house arrest not to be long, and they promised it wouldn't be."

The three — Kamel Guemazi, Abdel Kader Omar and Noureddine Chigara — added that they themselves agreed to leave prison only after receiving this assurance and that they expected "the liberation of all (FIS) detainees."

A leader of the Islamic Message (MMI-Haras), Ahmad Kerfah, said he found Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj in "good health and spirits" during a recent visit with them.

Mr. Kerfah, who said the pair met with party leaders and other politicians every Wednesday, added that Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj were "determined to find solutions to the country's problems" if three conditions were met.

These were: "Rehabilitation of the FIS, total freedom of movement" for themselves, and that the FIS's consultative council be allowed to meet "with all its members."

Rabah Kebir, head of the party's leadership in exile, said FIS and its leaders "are now convinced of the need to work towards finding a solution" to the Algerian crisis.

Yeltsin in Britain en route to U.S.

BRIZE NORTON, England (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin, heading for America with an appeal to get down to business, was greeted as an old friend Saturday by Prime Minister John Major.

Mr. Major, who met Mr. Yeltsin at the Royal Air Force Base at Brize Norton, 90 kilometres northwest of London, said the two leaders planned to discuss a range of issues Saturday and Sunday.

"We also intend to spend some time enjoying ourselves," said Mr. Major, who invited Mr. Yeltsin to be the first Russian leader to stay at Chequers, the prime minister's official country estate.

Mr. Yeltsin said relations with Britain were harmonious and "I do not recall a single serious issue where we are not in agreement."

"The time has come to compare notes. We have signed quite a number of agreements and taken part in talks. Now we need this opportunity to compare whether we are going in the right direction," said Mr. Yeltsin, speaking in Russian.

Before Mr. Yeltsin's departure, Russian Foreign Minister Grigory Yavlinsky said the talks would be "studiedly informal."

Looking forward to his arrival in the United States on Sunday, Mr. Yeltsin said he will be seeking allies in corporate America.

"Investments are needed," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters Saturday before leaving Moscow.

Mr. Yeltsin and President Bill Clinton will each address the U.N. General Assembly on Monday.

Mr. Yeltsin then goes to Washington for a round of summit meetings that will include Russian and American business leaders.

"Our partnership isn't very pragmatic for Russia. It's more talk — and even sometimes pressure," Mr. Yeltsin complained.

Looking tan and rested after his vacation in southern Russia, Mr. Yeltsin said Russia and the United States "have to switch their partnership, especially in the economic sphere... onto a pragmatic track."

American officials and business people complain that investing in Russia is risky because of organised crime, conflicting legislation

and unpredictable taxes. Mr. Yeltsin swept aside such complaints. Russia wants to do business, he insisted.

"We're ready," he said. "We have prepared the legislative base, we have prepared the projects, we have the raw materials. We're ready."

He ticked off a list of areas for investment, including the oil and gas industry, space, auto and aircraft manufacturing, pipelines and reconstructing nuclear power plants.

The Russian leader said it was time for the United States and Russia to meet on equal footing. "We have to level out our relationship — and agree upon this with the American side," he said. "We have to become equal."

Mr. Yeltsin will stop in Seattle on his way home and tour a Boeing facility.

Although the president has a heavy schedule of political and business meetings, he and his wife, Naina, plan to make time for a yacht outing and a visit with an American family in Seattle.

Mr. Major said he and Mr. Yeltsin intended to spend time relaxing as well as holding working sessions.

"We will discuss long and short term issues — but we do intend to spend some time enjoying ourselves," he said.

Officials said the two leaders would discuss several international issues, including a United States proposal to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims, which both London and Moscow oppose.

Russia has "categorically" rejected the proposal, while Britain is more circumspect, intending to abstain if there is a vote on the issue in the U.N. Security Council.

The first round of talks on Saturday afternoon were on bilateral relations and the upcoming visit to Russia by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, from Oct. 17 to 20, the first visit to Russia by a British monarch.

The two leaders also discussed "the general situation in Russia and the future of economic reform there," a British government spokesman said.

According to a Downing Street spokeswoman, Mr. Yeltsin told Mr. Major that bilateral relations are "better than ever."



Russian President Boris Yeltsin waves to wellwishers after being greeted by British Prime Minister John Major upon

his arrival on Saturday at an air force base outside London (AFP photo)

Turkey pursues PKK rebels

TUNCELI, Turkey (R) — Turkish aircraft blasted crags of the Munzur mountain chain on Saturday on the third day of an offensive against an estimated 3,000 separatist Kurdish guerrillas in the eastern province of Tunceli.

Military officials in the region said Turkish troops killed nine Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels on Friday night during a battle with a group of about 150 rebels in Kutudereci region.

As aircraft bombed the Munzur mountains and Kutudereci ravine, a deeply carved valley extending for nearly 40 kilometres and surrounded by forests, about 5,000 mountain commandos moved through the region, known as a centre for training PKK fighters, officials said.

They said they believed guerrilla leader Semdin Sakik was among the group with whom soldiers had clashed in Kutudereci.

Mr. Sakik, a seasoned veteran of the 10-year-old guerrilla fight in the south-east Turkey, was recently named PKK commander of a "northern area" of five provinces including Tunceli.

Rights group accuses Egypt of curbing freedom of expression

CAIRO (Agencies) — A western human rights group on Saturday accused Egypt of harassing and detaining journalists and urged President Hosni Mubarak to halt any practice limiting freedom of expression.

The statement of the Human Rights Watch-Middle East follows recent questioning or detention of several journalists and lawyers related to the government campaign to quell violence by radicals.

The New York-based organisation urged Mr. Mubarak in a letter to drop charges against an opposition newspaper editor and free the editor of a magazine advocating peasants' rights.

Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif, who acts as the spokesman for the president's office, could not be reached immediately for comment. Egypt's government often does not respond publicly to complaints by human rights groups.

The group's letter noted that Egypt is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees freedom of expression.

"Editors and journalists continue to be targeted by the security apparatus and detained and interrogated solely because they have articulated views or published

information critical of the state," the letter added.

"The recent actions taken by Egyptian security and prosecutorial authorities are clear violations of the right of free expression," it said. It added there was no justification for the government action "on the basis of national security or public order."

The letter urged dropping charges against Mustafa Bakri, chief editor of the Liberal Party daily *Al Akhar* who was detained and questioned earlier in the week.

Security agents released Mr. Bakri on 5,000 Egyptian pounds (\$1,500) bail after accusing him of publishing false articles in exchange for money from Iraq. Mr. Bakri said he still is being held by the prosecutor's office.

Charges against Mr. Bakri included "disseminating false information and views encouraging sympathy with extremists" and publishing articles "with the intent to threaten general security and Egypt's relations with some Arab countries."

Human Rights Watch-Middle East also condemned the arrest of Hamed Yassin, editor of the small magazine "Land — The Peasant's Voice" and the confiscation of the magazine's latest issues. Mr. Yassin has been de-

tained since Sept. 1 on charges that he published an article criticising a recent government-backed conference on Egypt's future, the group's letter said.

Mr. Yassin was arrested and imprisoned over an article criticising "national dialogue" between the ruling National Democratic Party and opposition parties at the beginning of the year.

The latest criticism follows a statement by London-based Amnesty International earlier in the week that also accused Egypt of jailing journalists and pro-Islamic lawyers without justification.

The statement from Human Rights Watch-Middle East also complained that Egypt blocked distribution of the annual report of the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights, which is not recognised by the government as an official organisation.

The Egyptian watchdog group has accused both the government and Islamic radicals of violating human rights in the 2 1/2-year campaign by militants to unseat the government and install Islamic rule.

More than 410 people have died in the violence. Most of the victims have been police or militants, but government officials, Christians, bystanders and five foreign tourists also have been killed.

Rocket kills 10 teachers in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — A rocket slammed into Kabul University on Saturday, and hospital officials said 10 teachers were killed and several wounded.

The university, already pockmarked by rockets and its classrooms strewn with broken glass, opened last month after being closed for two years by incessant fighting between the factions who rule the Afghan capital.

"It's very bad," said Mohammad Zahir, a teacher who took some of his wounded colleagues to a nearby hospital. "We just don't know what to do."

It was not clear who fired the deadly missile. Students had stayed home Saturday because of renewed fighting in the western suburb of Kabul, near the university.

The two small groups, claiming to represent Afgha-

nistan's minority Shiite Muslims, began fighting nine days ago.

Since then more than 1,100 people have been wounded and as many as 350 people killed, according to the International Red Cross.

Insurgents, once revered as saviours for throwing out the communists in 1992, turned their weapons on each other in savage battles for power.

According to the Red Cross, 4,500 people have been killed in Kabul since the beginning of the year.

The city is in ruins and an estimated 750,000 people have fled, many of them living in refugee camps outside the eastern city of Jalalabad.

Truce halts bloodshed in Kabul

Earlier, a temporary ceasefire was called for to facilitate

mediation between the warring Harakat-e-Islami and Hezb-e-Wahdat factions.

"The Iranian ambassador asked us for a ceasefire so he could go to west Kabul to talk to Mazari," a Harakat spokesman said.

Iranian Ambassador Gholam Reza Hadoddi was said to be carrying a message from Tehran for Wahdat leader Abdul Ali Mazari, who started a simultaneous fight with Harakat and a rival Wahdat leader 11 days ago.

The temporary ceasefire was arranged for the morning, but was generally observed into the early afternoon.

There is no word yet on agreement for permanent cessation of the fighting between Harakat and Mr. Mazari's Wahdat faction.

Claes looks set for NATO job

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes is assured of becoming the next North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) secretary-general after his only rivals for the job either gave up or lost crucial support, alliance sources said on Saturday.

They said Norway's endorsement of Mr. Claes took all remaining suspense out of the diplomatic manoeuvring to fill the chair left vacant when Germany's Manfred Woerner died from cancer last month.

"Now it's a one-horse race. There is no realistic chance at this stage that it can be any one other than Claes," said one source.

Norway announced on Friday night it was not proposing former Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg for the job because he lacked support among NATO's 16 na-

tions. Norway's second announcement that it was backing Mr. Claes deprived the only known aspirant to the post, former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, of a key potential ally.

Mr. Ellemann-Jensen confirmed only on Friday that he was interested in the job and has not even won the Danish government's open backing. Sources said Scandinavian solidarity behind Mr. Ellemann-Jensen would have been a bare minimum condition for him to try to make inroads into the support amassed by Mr. Claes in recent weeks.

Mr. Ellemann-Jensen, who even on Friday was rating his chances as slim, has not so far commented on the Norwegian decision, but Danish news media on Saturday said it decreased his chances even

further. In this week's national elections, Mr. Ellemann-Jensen missed out on his ambition of becoming Danish prime minister, but his opposition Liberal Party scored well.

At its congress on Saturday, the Liberal Party unanimously reelected Mr. Ellemann-Jensen as its leader.

Mr. Ellemann-Jensen told Danish radio on Saturday that for him "NATO is something special" but that he would stay in Danish politics rather than seek another international post if he did not get the alliance job.

One NATO source said he "would not bet a single cent" on the possibility of some new candidate for secretary-general emerging before Tuesday, the closing date for applications, and he could not imagine any surprise name gathering support.

COLUMN

Gorbachev gets pension rise

MOSCOW (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev's monthly state pension has jumped from 4,000 roubles to 760,000 roubles a month but it's not quite the fortune it sounds. The former Soviet president's paycheque will now buy \$315 instead of \$166. A decree published in the official *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* Friday raised Mr. Gorbachev's pension to 40 times the state minimum of 19,000 roubles a month. The Commonwealth of Independent States which rose out of the ashes of the Soviet Union awarded him a pension of 4,000 roubles a month in December 1991. Then it was worth \$44, at the time a considerable sum. But it was not indexed and inflation and dramatic increases in real prices have slashed its buying power. In reality the former Kremlin leader is supported by the Gorbachev Foundation, which has numerous sources of funds, including Western institutions. He lives in comfort outside Moscow and can afford to travel abroad regularly.

Doctor charged after hysterectomy kills foetus

LONDON (R) — A British gynaecologist will face trial after he performed a hysterectomy and removed a 11-week-old foetus from the womb of a woman who had been told she could never have children. Reginald Dixon was charged under a 130-year-old law with carrying out an unlawful abortion on Barbara Whiten in March, 1993, the Crown Prosecution Service said Friday. He will appear before magistrates in Mansfield, central England, on Nov. 16. Ms. Whiten, 35, had been trying to have children for many years but agreed to a hysterectomy to relieve pain in her womb after doctors told her she was infertile. She said she was unaware she was pregnant when she entered hospital for the operation. After the operation, Dr. Dixon told her he had removed a male, 11-week-old foetus. Ms. Whiten had warned police she would launch a private criminal prosecution against Dr. Dixon if criminal charges were not brought. Local police investigated the case before passing its file to the Crown Prosecution Service, which has the final say in controversial cases. Dr. Dixon will be charged under the offences against the person act, passed in 1861.

Duke, Duchess of York tipped for reconciliation

LONDON (AFP) — The Duke and Duchess of York may be heading for a reconciliation, according to her father Major Ronald Ferguson, the Daily Mail reported Saturday. He told the paper his daughter Sarah wanted to return to her estranged husband, Prince Andrew, second son of Queen Elizabeth II. "If the outside world could see them together they would fail to understand how they can be apart... I believe Sarah does love Andrew and he'd have her back tomorrow," he was quoted as saying. However, he added: "But she's concerned that he isn't strong enough to stand up for her in the face of opposition from the people at the palace and possibly from other members of the family, though not the queen. According to the major, Prince Andrew has made it clear that 'the door would always be open for Sarah.' Royal watchers have speculated for months about a reunion between the Yorks, but her friends have always insisted the couple remain just on good terms."

Prince Edward pays low-key visit to S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Prince Edward, third son of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, paid a low-key visit to South Africa Friday and Saturday, the British High Commission (embassy) spokesman told the domestic news agency that the prince's visit was connected with the arts, but would give no further details. The queen's daughter, Princess Anne, is due to pay an official visit in November, while the monarch is expected early next year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Qadhafi proposes Arab summit to UAE

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan on Saturday received a letter from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi proposing an Arab summit, the official news agency Wam reported. The agency said Libyan Oil Minister Abdullah Al Badri handed over the letter on "Libya's call for a summit to unify Arab ranks, to clear the atmosphere and achieve a reconciliation among the brothers." It did not say whether Sheikh Zayed accepted the proposal for the summit, which would be the first since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Mr. Badri, current president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, arrived in the UAE on Friday on the first leg of a regional tour. He is also to visit Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to discuss oil issues.

Bentson to visit Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentson will visit Saudi Arabia early next month to discuss Riyadh's cash problems and the price of oil, officials here said Friday. Mr. Bentson will travel to the Saudi capital from Oct. 4 to 6 for talks with King Fahd, Oil Minister Hisham Nazir and Finance Minister Mohammad Ali Abdul Khail, the treasury officials said. The Saudis are major clients for the United States, with orders pending for delivery of nearly \$30 billion worth of military equipment by the year 2004. They also have committed themselves to buying \$6 billion worth of aircraft from Boeing and McDonnell Douglas but want to delay payment because of cash problems caused by falling oil prices. Mr. Bentson will fly to Riyadh after participating in the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Madrid, preceded by an Oct. 1 meeting of finance ministers of the Group of Seven industrial powers.

Zhirinovsky holidaying in Tunisia

TUNIS (AFP) — Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the extreme-nationalist deputy of the Russian parliament and head of the Liberal Democrat Party in Russia, is on holiday in Tunisia where he arrived 13 days ago, sources said. An independent Russian source said Mr. Zhirinovsky was to meet Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali Friday, but a presidential spokesman told AFP that the Tunisian president had "had no contact" with the Russian politician. Mr. Zhirinovsky is staying at a hotel in Hammamet, a seaside resort 60 kilometres from Tunis, from where he was reported to have said he would travel to Libya to meet Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. At the Russian embassy in Tunis, a Russian diplomat was "sceptical" about these meetings.

Iran's Velayati leaves for New York

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left for New York on Saturday to take part in the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. The official Iranian news agency IRNA said Mr. Velayati will outline Iran's stands on various international issues and discuss major issues pertaining to the Islamic World as well as the "double-standard attitude of international bodies towards such issues."

Ames exposed 34 secret U.S. agents

WASHINGTON (AP) — An investigation by the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) inspector general has concluded that confessed spy Aldrich H. Ames identified more than 34 secret U.S. and allied agents to the Soviet Union over a nine-year period, the Washington Post reported Saturday. Quoting unnamed sources it said were familiar with a 400-page classified draft, the newspaper said Mr. Ames, a veteran counter-intelligence officer, also exposed a total of 53 clandestine U.S. and allied operations to the Soviets — about double the number previously admitted. CIA Director James Woolsey was scheduled to brief key members of Congress next week on the report, which was prepared under the direction of Frederick P. Fitz, the agency's inspector general. The report, according to the Post, blames the "almost complete indifference of senior CIA supervisors" who from 1986 failed to put "adequate resources" into searching for a Soviet mole in the agency.

Palestinian killed in police car accident

HEBRON (R) — A Palestinian was killed and another seriously hurt when the car in which they were travelling was in collision with an Israeli police vehicle in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian sources said on Saturday. Both were members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Fatah movement. Fatah said in a leaflet a day of mourning would be observed in Idna village, west of Hebron, where the two men lived. The accident took place near Idna on Friday. An Israeli police spokesman said three Israeli policemen were injured in the accident.

Cypriot president arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides arrived here Saturday on his first visit to Syria for talks with President Hafez Al Assad on bilateral ties and the Middle East peace process, diplomats said. Mr. Clerides was accompanied by his Foreign Minister Alecos Mikhalides on the three-day visit. Syrian presidential spokesman Fikri Kuriyeh said, Cyprus and Syria have signed several cooperation accords, notably relating to security and the fight against crime and drugs. Cyprus aims to strengthen ties with its Middle East neighbours within the context of the Israeli-Arab peace process. Mr. Clerides has made two private visits to Israel, and Cyprus recently opened an embassy in the Jewish state. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres became the first senior government official to visit Cyprus at the end of July.

10 die in heavy rains in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Heavy rains caused the deaths of 10 people in western Algeria, officials told Algerian radio Saturday. Seven people were swept away in the Tiaaret region, while two small girls were killed when their house collapsed late Friday in Medea. The tenth victim was electrocuted when a high tension cable came down in the department of Tissemsilt. The rains followed several years marked by drought and caused material damage in the three departments, where about 100 families were reported to have been made homeless after their houses collapsed. In eastern Algeria, heavy rains also caused material damage but there were no casualties, Algerian radio said.